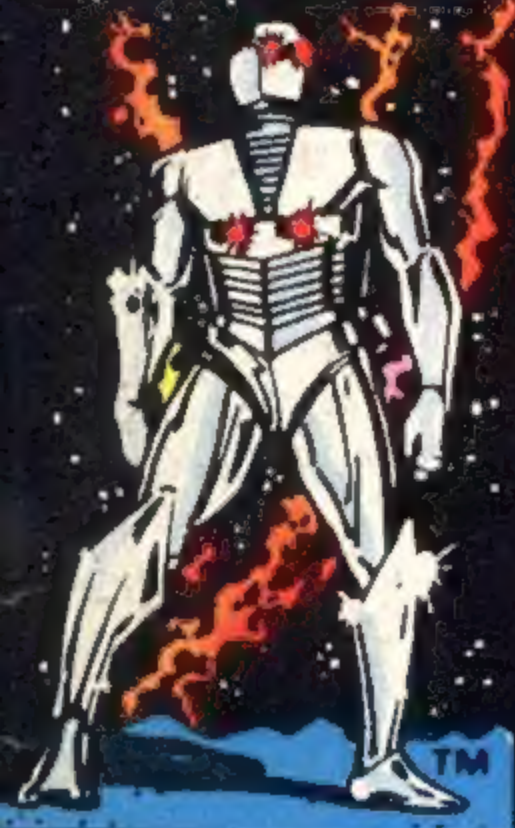


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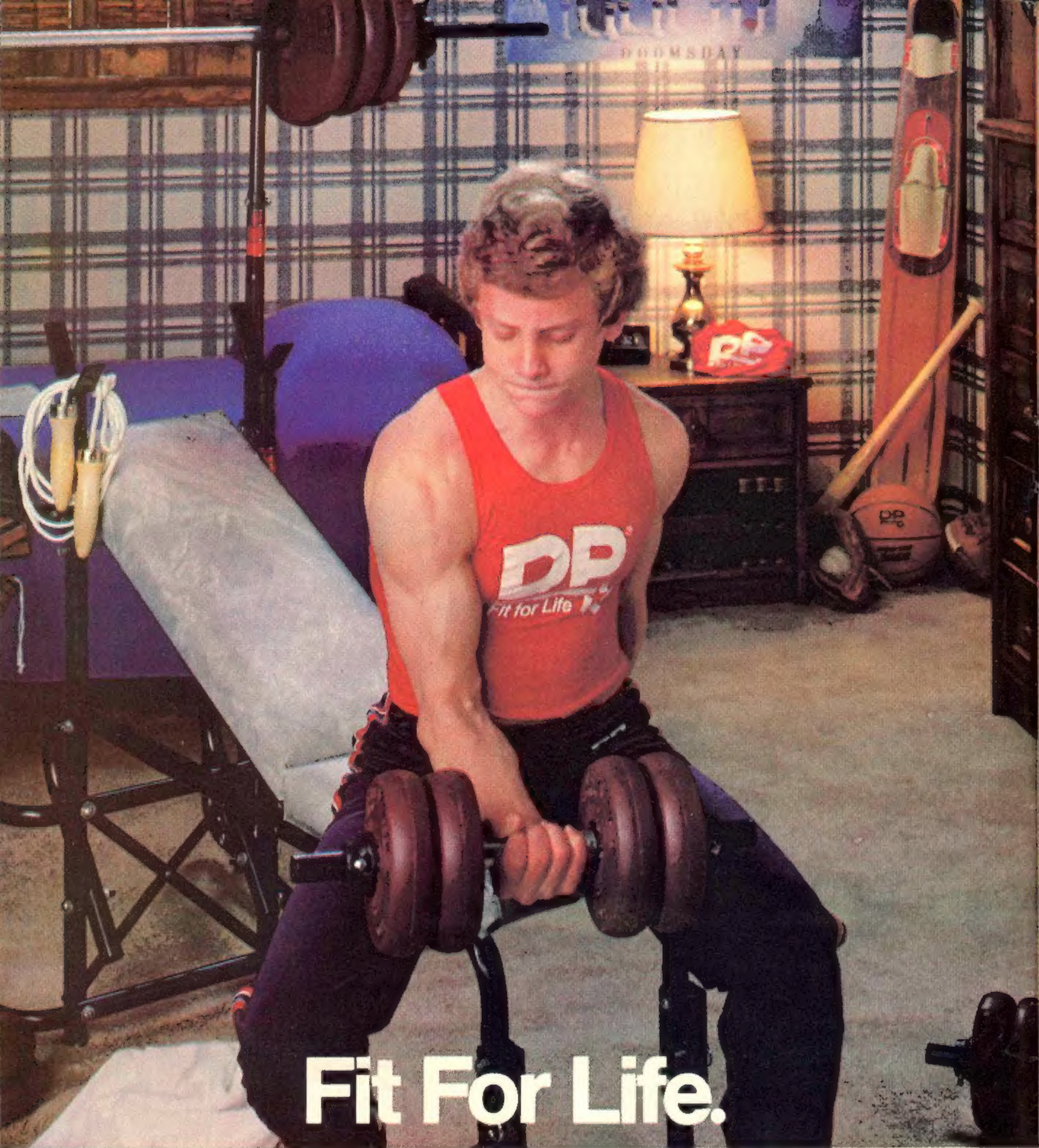
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SHE IS STARSHINE!

SHE IS A
SPACEKNIGHT!

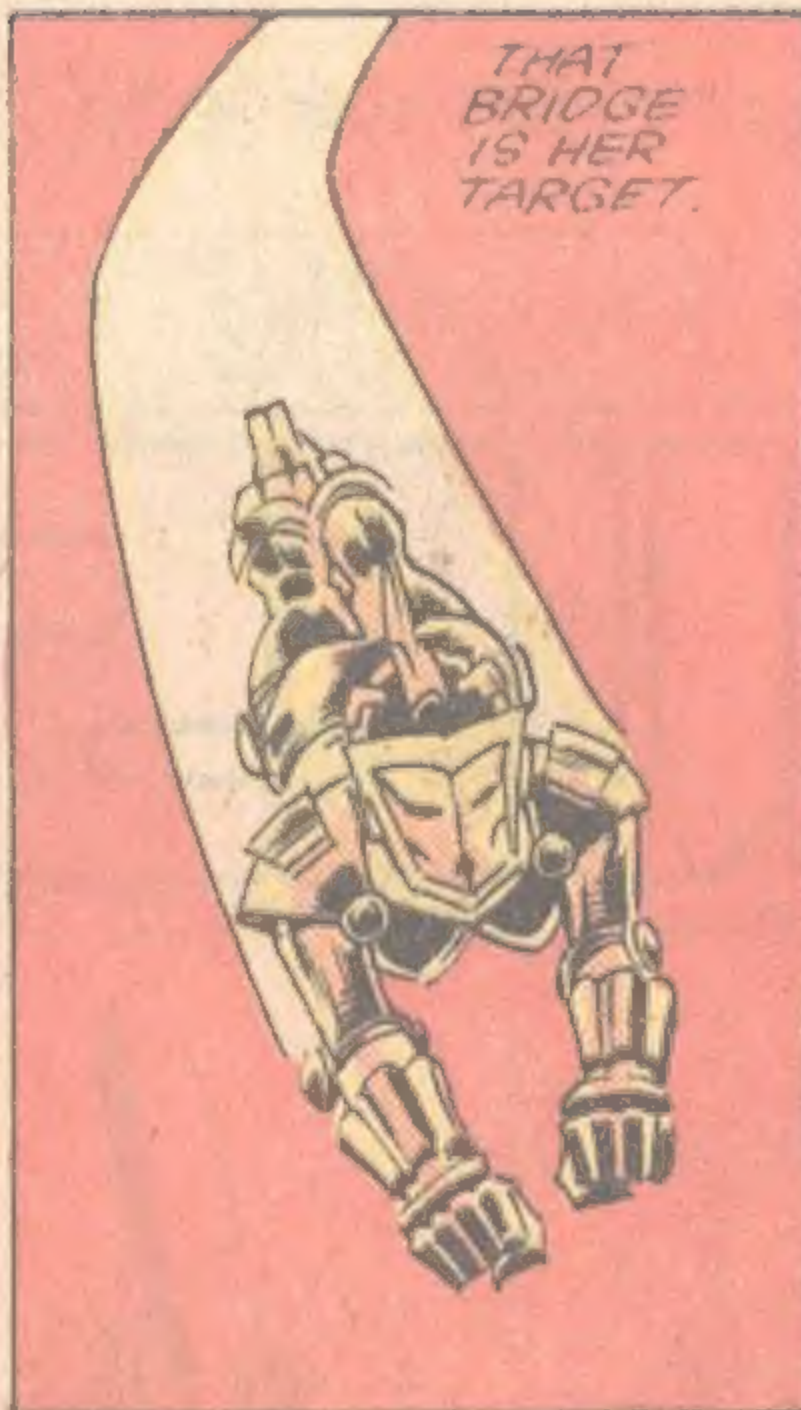
SHE IS BENT ON
SLAUGHTER!

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HER LIGHTEYES PENETRATE THE CRISP OCTOBER AIR TO PINPOINT THE RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC CROSSING THE CLAIRTON RIVER DRAWBRIDGE.



THAT BRIDGE IS HER TARGET.



SAY! WHAT'S THAT? A METEOR?

LORD-- MAYBE IT'S A MISSILE!



STARSHINE IS NEITHER METEOR NOR MISSILE, NEITHER CYBORG NOR HUMAN. SHE IS VENGEANCE INCARNATE... AND WILL USE ANY MEANS TO OBTAIN HER REVENGE

YOU, MAN-- RAISE THE BRIDGE!

I-I MUSTA SPENT TOO MANY HOURS ON THIS JOB! I'M STARTIN' T'SEE THINGS!



DO NOT TEMPT MY WRATH WITH YOUR PRATTLE!

I GAVE YOU A COMMAND! OBEY IT!



Y-YES, MA'AM! WHATEVER Y-YOU SAY! R-RAISE THE BRIDGE IT IS!

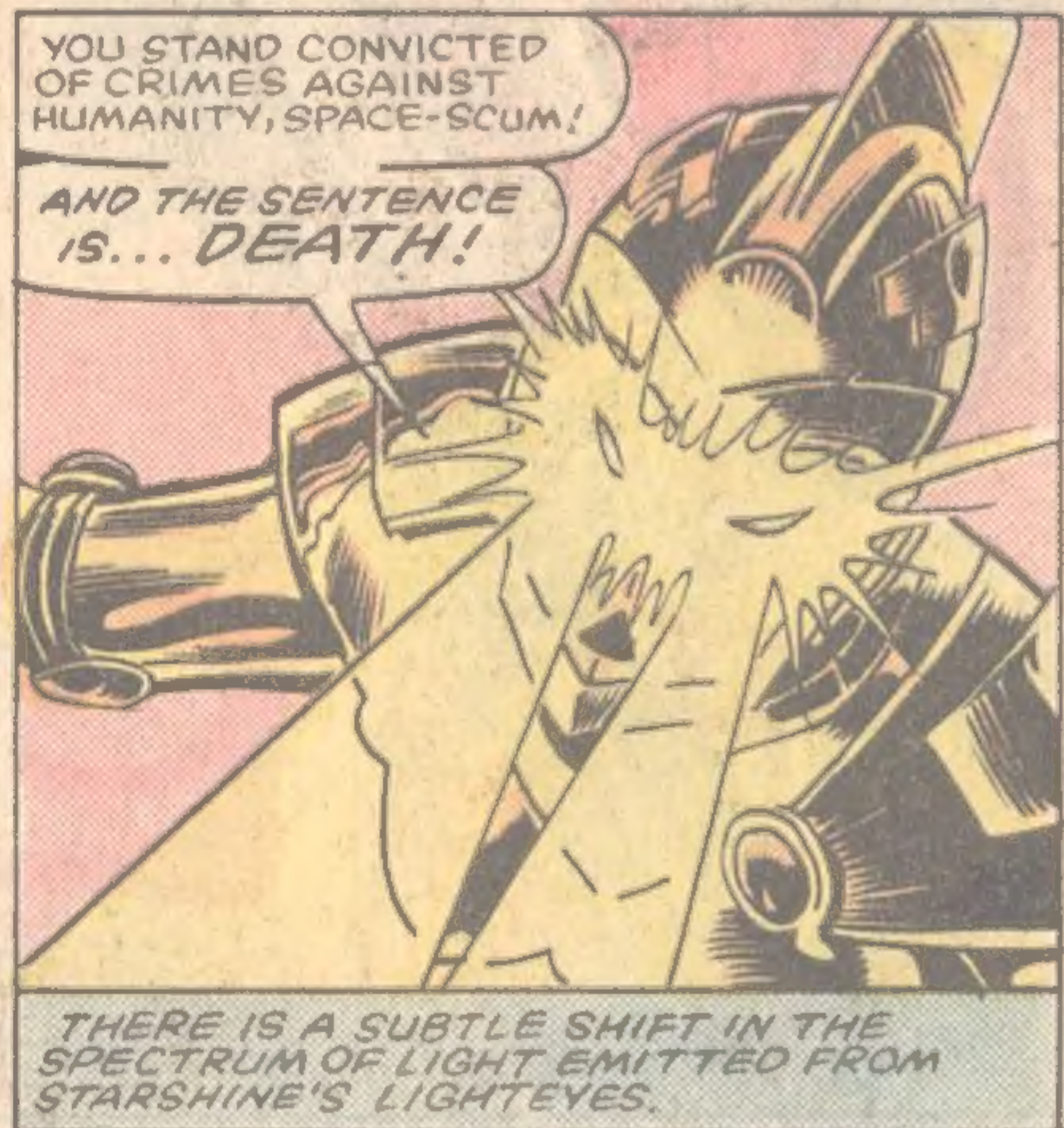


DONE.



NOW TO SEE THAT THE BRIDGE STAYS RAISED--





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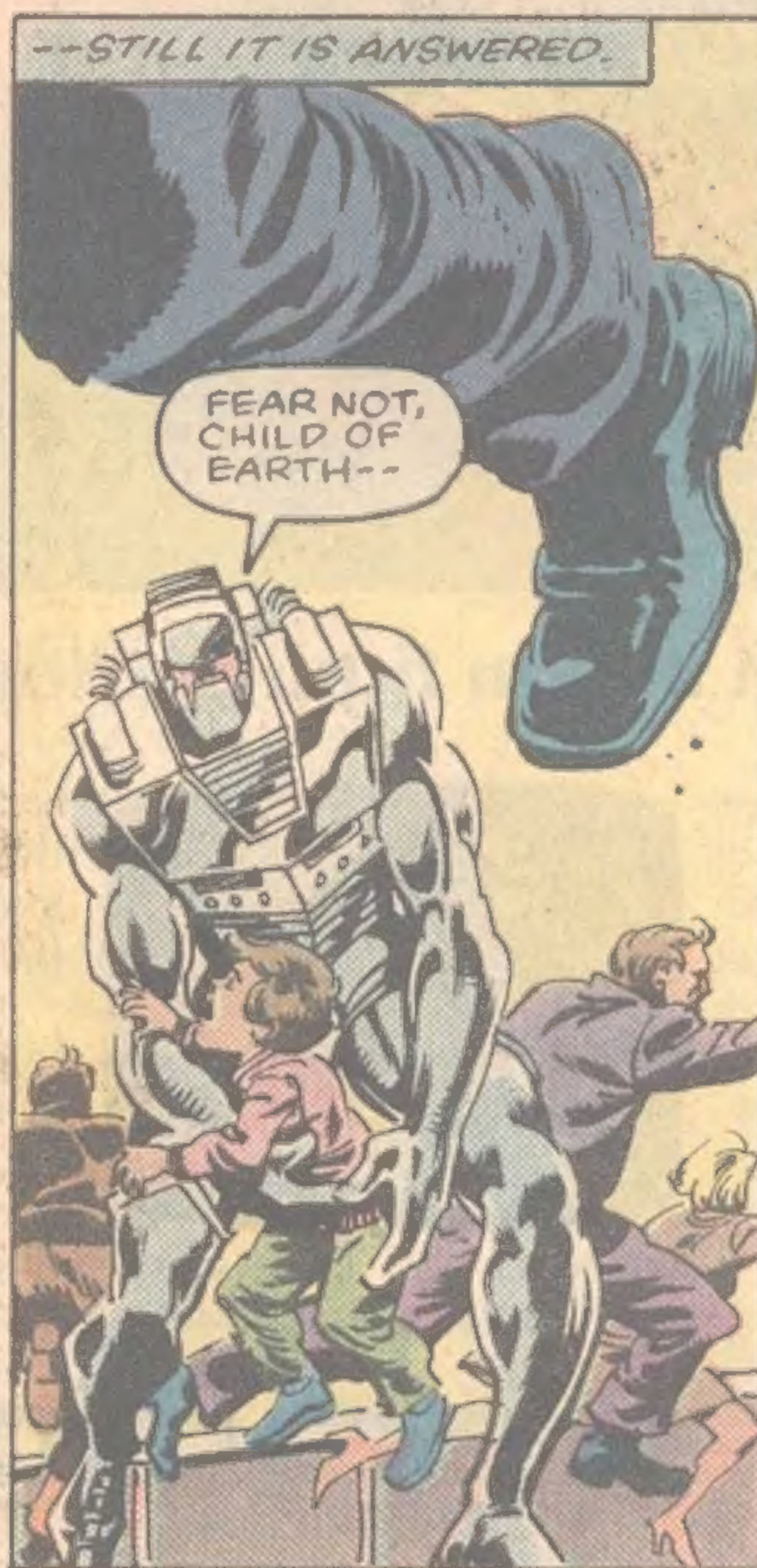
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-- BOTH FROM THE WICKED WAYS OF WRAITHKIND... AND FROM THE SENSELESS SCOURGES OF STARSHINE, MY SISTER SPACEKNIGHT.

TWO WRAITHS ARE DEAD, ROM!

CLAIRTON'S MURDERERS HAVE PAID THE PRICE FOR THEIR CRIMES!

THAT'S JUSTIFICATION ENOUGH FOR ANY ACTS OF MINE!

WE'RE ENGAGED IN A WAR ROM--

-- WITH NO QUARTER ASKED, AND NONE GIVEN!

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU TAUGHT ME?

AS REGARDS WRAITHKIND, PERHAPS.

BUT YOUR METHODS, MY SWEET STARSHINE, INSTILL TERROR IN THE VERY RACE WE HAVE SWORN OURSELVES TO PROTECT.

WE ARE SOLDIERS, AS SUCH, WE BEAR RESPONSIBILITY OF SAFEGUARDING CIVILIANS...

...NOT TERRORIZING THEM.

LET THEM KNOW TERROR, ROM!

PERHAPS THIS WILL AWAKEN THEM TO THE THREAT THE DIRE WRAITHS POSE TO EARTH!

PERHAPS IT WILL PLACE THEM ON THEIR GUARD--

--SO THAT THEY'RE BETTER EQUIPPED TO SURVIVE THAN MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS WERE!

STARSHINE!

HUMANITY HAS STOOD IN STUNNED SILENCE DURING MOST OF THE SPACEKNIGHT'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE DIALOGUE.

NOW MANKIND TAKES TO ITS COLLECTIVE HEELS...



...AS ROM, GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS, SOARS IN PURSUIT OF THE WOMAN HE LOVES!



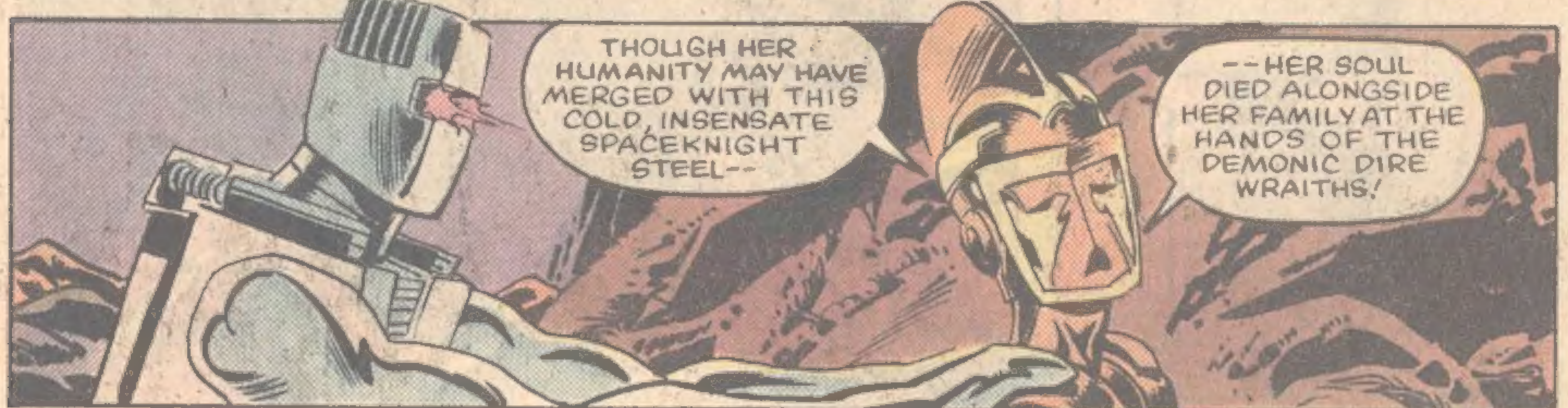
BRANDY!

DON'T CALL ME THAT, ROM! I'M NOT BRANDY CLARK ANY LONGER!



THOUGH HER HUMANITY MAY HAVE MERGED WITH THIS COLD, INSENSATE SPACEKNIGHT STEEL--

--HER SOUL DIED ALONGSIDE HER FAMILY AT THE HANDS OF THE DEMONIC DIRE WRAITHS!



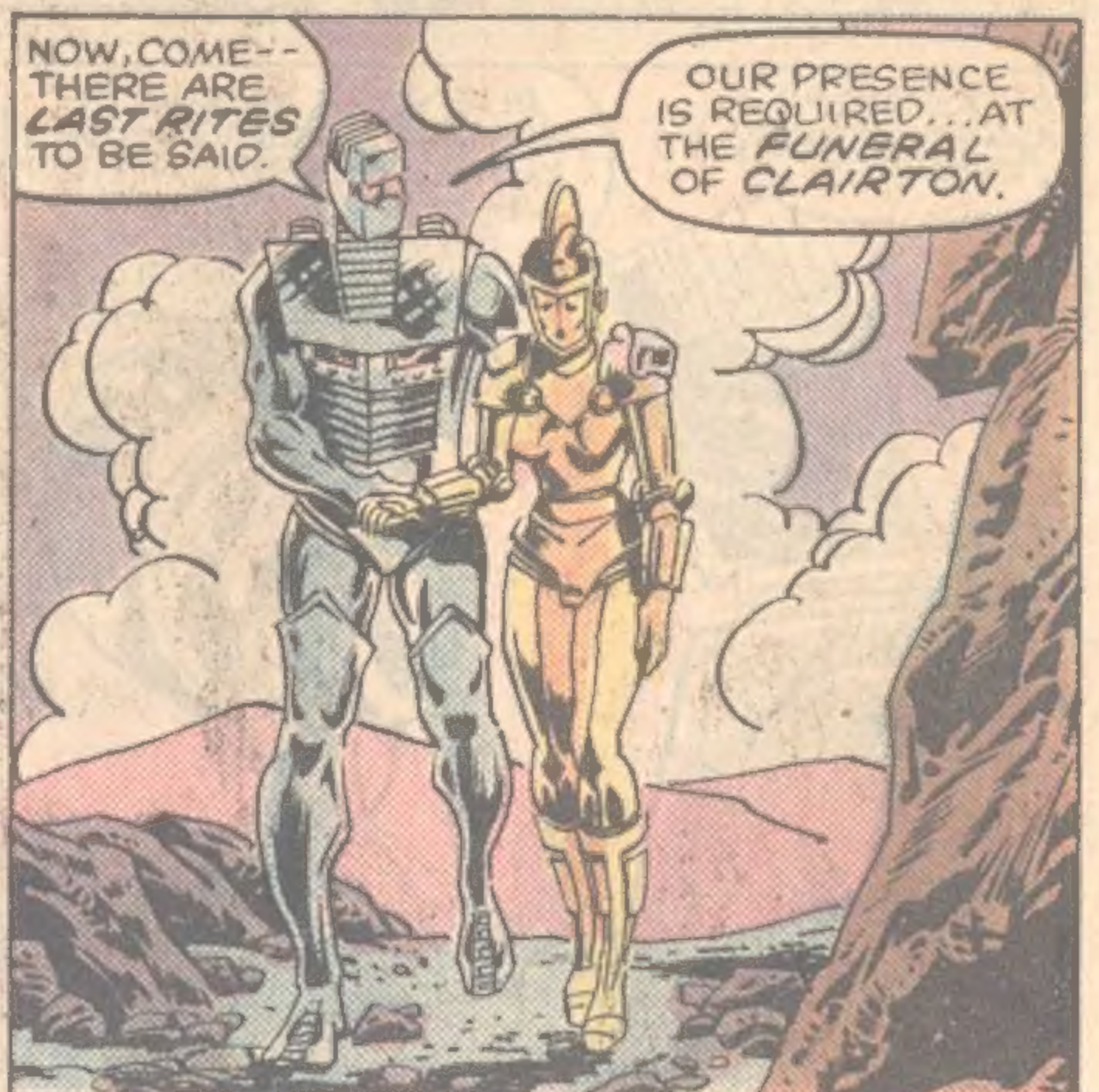
EVERYTHING -- EVERYONE -- I'VE EVER LOVED -- DEAD, DESTROYED... AND I CAN'T EVEN CRY!

TEARS ARE ONLY ONE OF THOSE COMFORTS DENIED US SPACEKNIGHTS.



NOW, COME -- THERE ARE LAST RITES TO BE SAID.

OUR PRESENCE IS REQUIRED... AT THE FUNERAL OF CLAIRTON.





THIS WAS CLAIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA, A PEACEFUL LITTLE HAMLET ESSENTIALLY NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER.

EMPHASIZE THE WORD... "WAS!"



TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES CLAIRTON HAS CEASED TO BE...

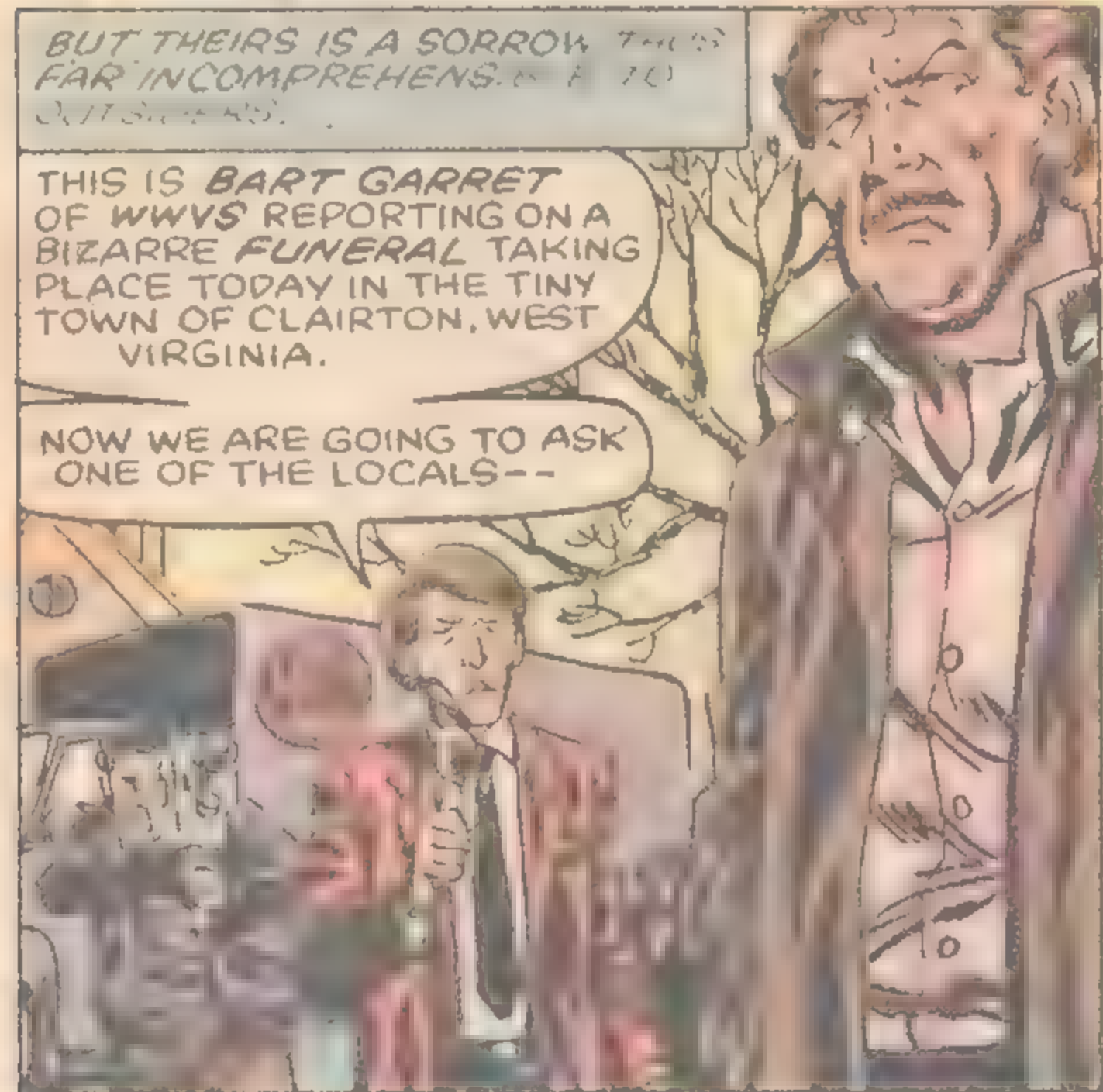


... AND, THIS CHILLY DAY IN OCTOBER, ITS SURVIVING CITIZENS HAVE ASSEMBLED...

TO MARK ITS PASSING.



THE TOWNSPEOPLE, FOR THE MOST PART STAND SULLEN, SILENT, LOST IN THEIR SHOCK AND THEIR SORROW.



BUT THEIRS IS A SORROW THAT'S FAR INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO OUTSIDERS.

THIS IS BART GARRET OF WWVS REPORTING ON A BIZARRE FUNERAL TAKING PLACE TODAY IN THE TINY TOWN OF CLAIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA.

NOW WE ARE GOING TO ASK ONE OF THE LOCALS--



-- JUST WHAT TODAY'S SOLEMNITIES... ARE SUPPOSED TO SYMBOLIZE?

SYMBOLIZE? NOTHING, MISTER.

THIS IS JUST THE WAY WE BURY OUR DEAD.

LEST YOU IN THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE
THINK THIS REPORTER IS BEING DISRESPECT-
FUL, TREATING THIS TOWN'S LOSS SOME-
WHAT LIGHTLY--

-- YOU SHOULD KNOW
THAT THE COFFING
BEING BORNE DOWN
CLAIRTON'S MAIN
STREET THIS DAY--

-- ARE EMPTY!

OH, PEOPLE MAY HAVE
DIED IN CLAIRTON OVER
THE PAST WEEK.

THE TOWN
HAS BEEN
SWEEP BY A
SERIES OF
MYSTERI-
OUSLY
LOCALIZED
FIRES.

WHOLE
FAMILIES
APPEAR
TO BE
MISSING

"STATE OFFICIALS SIFT-
ING THROUGH THE CHARRED
RUBBLE HAVE FOUND NO
REMAINS, ONLY HEIGHT-
ENING THE MYSTERY."

SO WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

COULD IT BE THAT SUCH
A MASSIVE LOSS OF LIFE
IN SUCH A TINY TOWN SO
UNUSED TO DISASTER--

TYPICAL
NEWS-ES!
KNOW
NOTHING,
SAY A LOT!

-- COULD HAVE UNBALANCED
THESE PEOPLE, DRIVING THEM
INTO A COLLECTIVE ACTING-
OUT OF THEIR GRIEF?

YOU WANT ANSWERS,
MR. NEWSMAN? THEN
FOLLOW THE FUNERAL
CORTEGE--

TO CLAIRTON
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WH-WHY,
YES--YES
WE WILL!

THE MEDIA FOLLOWS.
PRIME TIME LIVES A
PACKAGE... A BEGINNING,
A MIDDLE AND AN END,
PREDIGESTED FOR
PUBLIC CONSUMPTION



BUT THERE IS NO WAY
THE MEDIA MOGULS CAN
PREDIGEST... THIS!

DEARLY
BELOVED, WE
ARE GATHERED
HERE...



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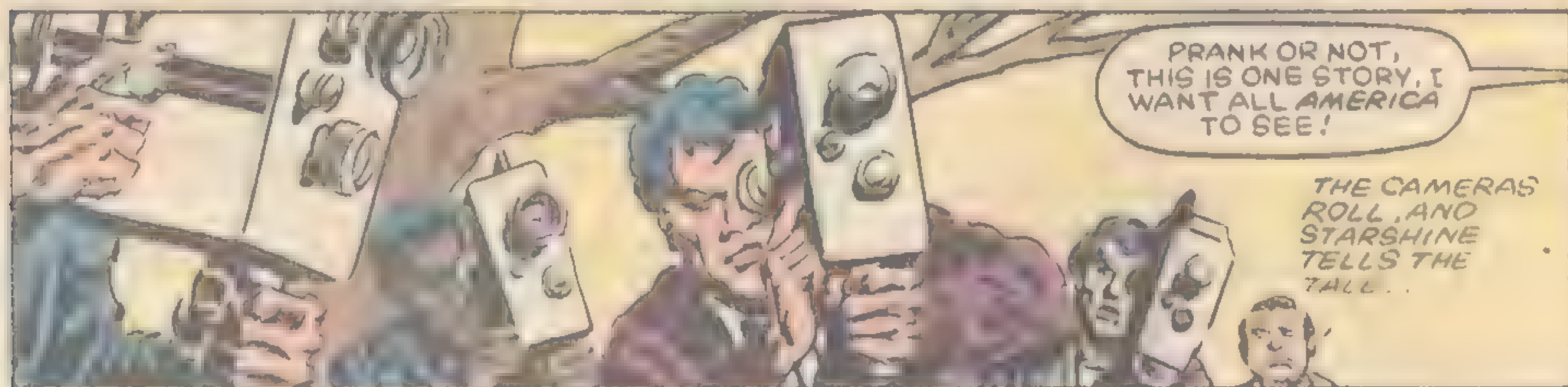
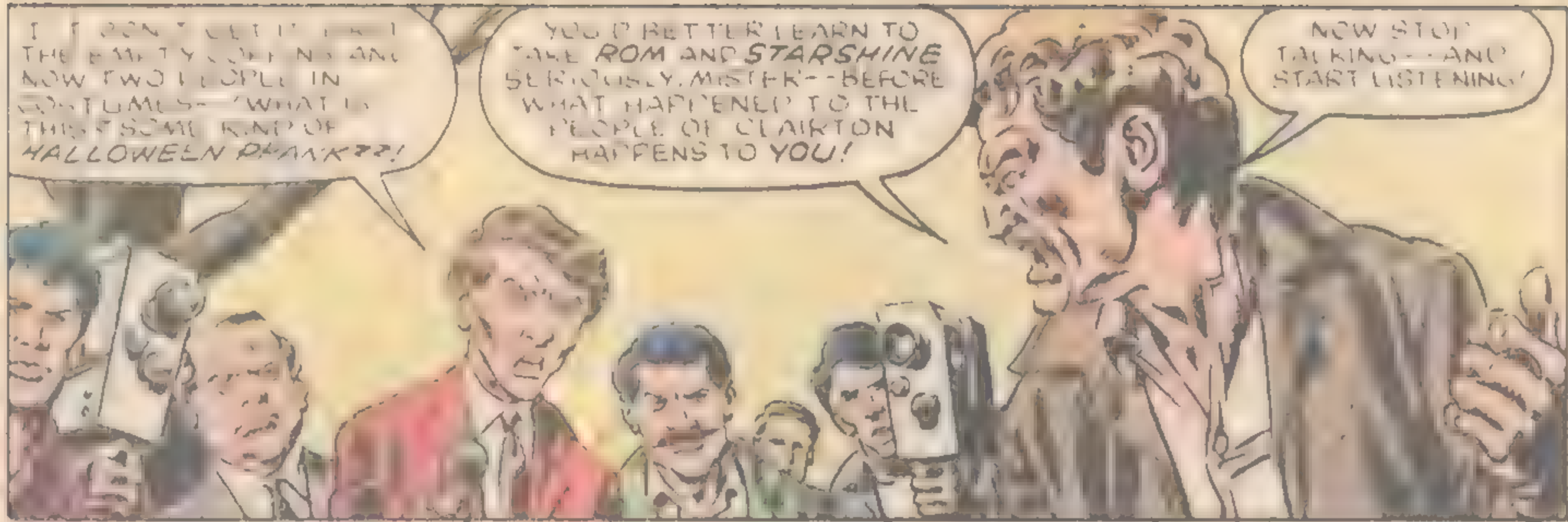
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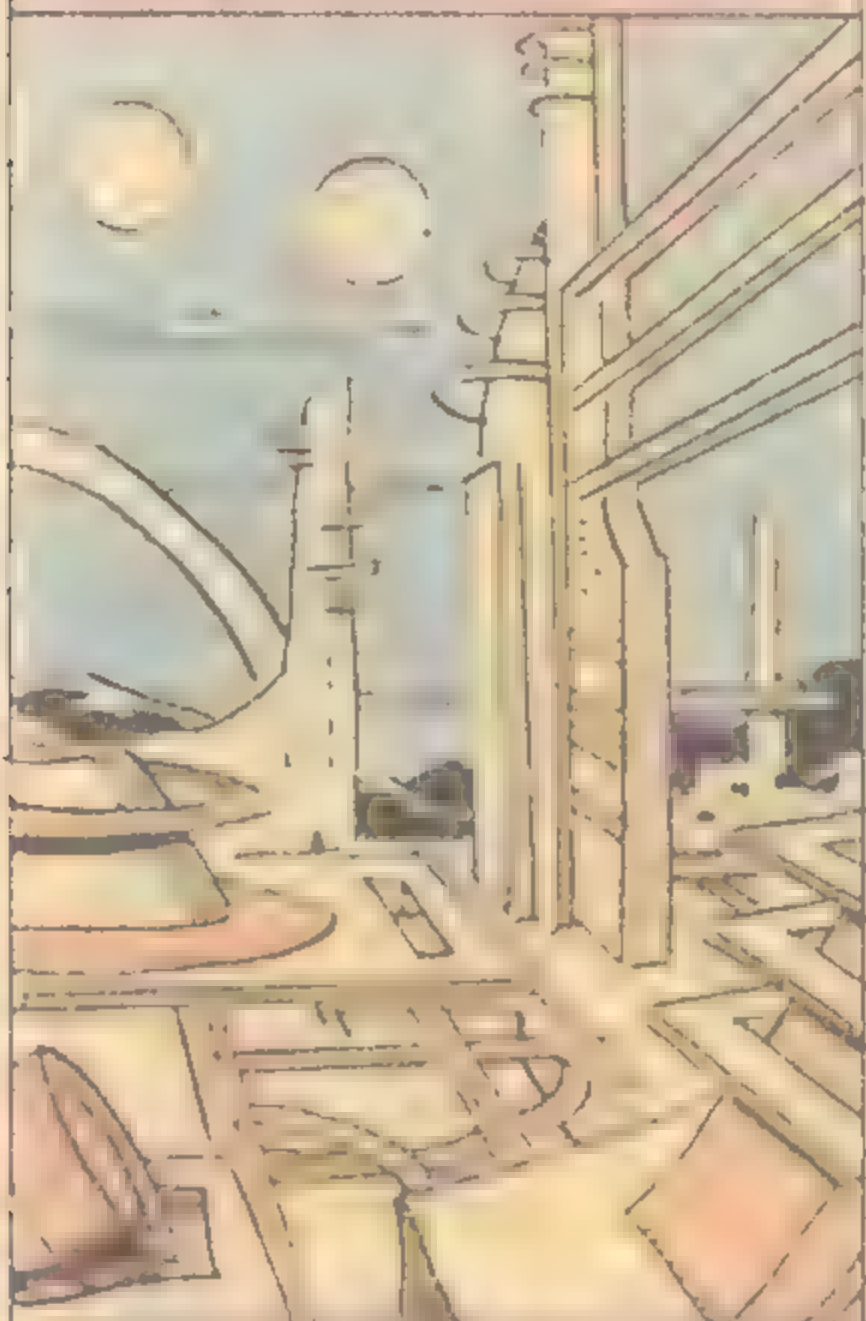
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OF GREAT GALADOR,
LONG AGO THE HEARTWORLD
OF THE INCREDIBLY VAST,
INCREDIBLY DISTANT
GOLDEN GALAXY



IT WAS A WORLD AT
PEACE WITH ITSELF AND
ITS NEIGHBORS...

UNTIL THE ARRIVAL, FROM
THE UREAD DARK NEBULA, OF
THE DREADFUL AND DIRE
WRAITHS!



THE WRAITHS STRUCK SUDDENLY,
SWIFTLY, SAVAGELY. GALADOR
OUTWORLDS WERE DEVAS-
TATED, DEPOPULATED,
DESTROYED

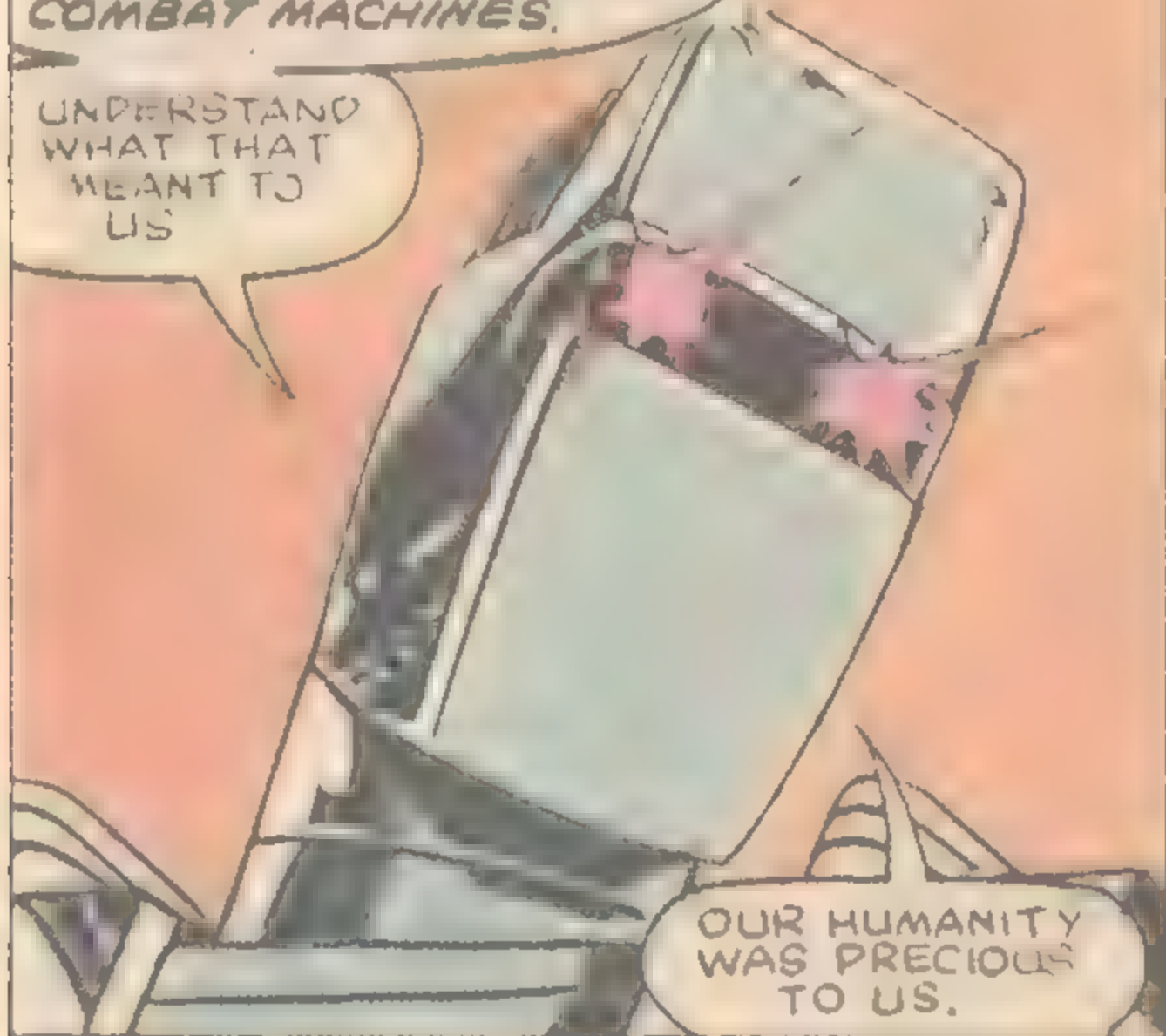


IT WAS CERTAIN THAT THE ENEMY WOULD SOON ATTACK GALADOR ITSELF. IN SUCH A COUNCIL,
THEY, OLD GALADOR'S PRIME DIRECTOR PROPOSE A DESPERATE PLAN FOR HIS PLANET'S DEFENSE.



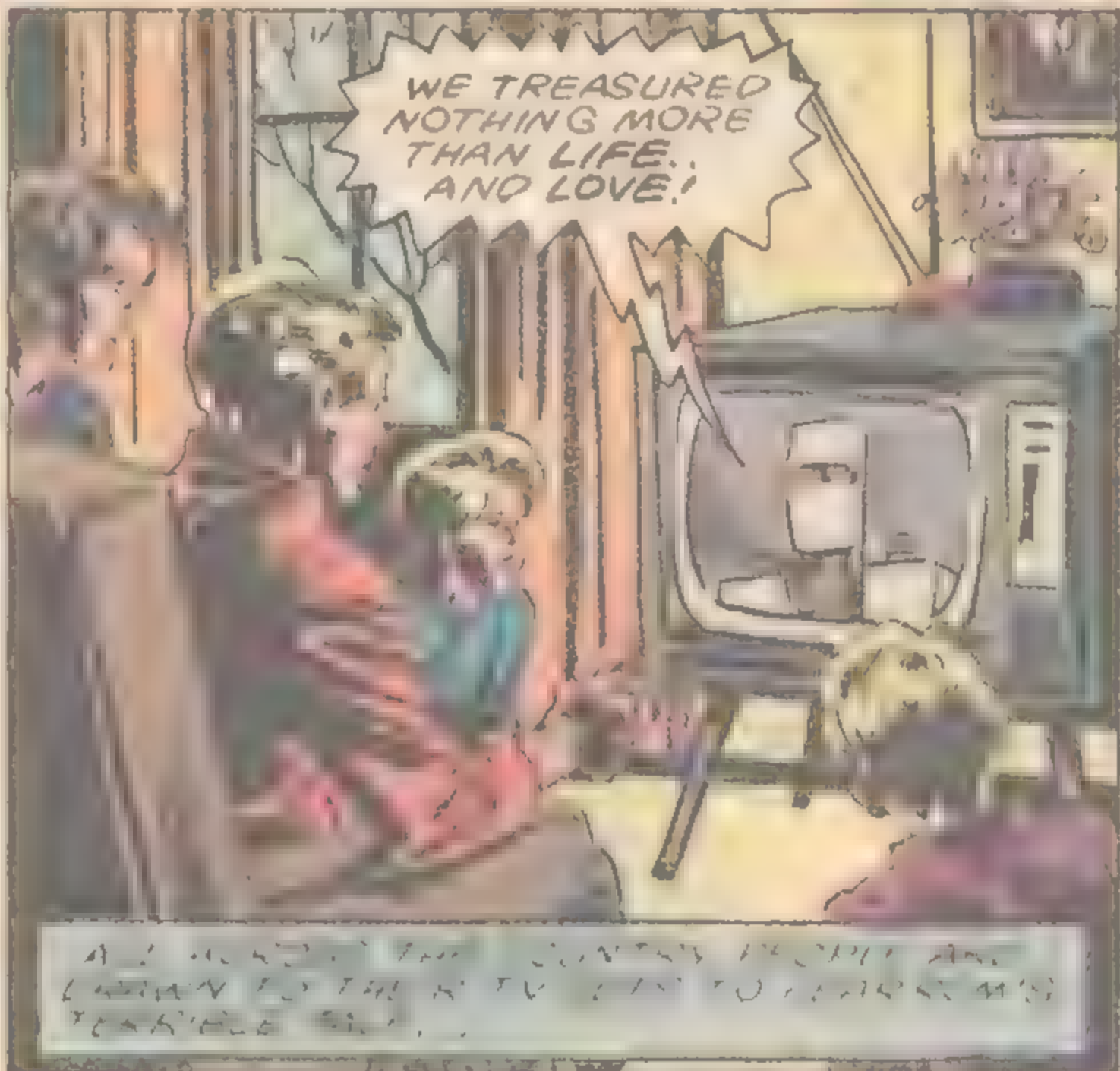
THE FLOWER OF GALADOR'S
YOUTH WAS SUMMONED TO
SACRIFICE THEIR HUMANITY
TO BECOME COLD CYBORG
COMBAT MACHINES.

UNDERSTAND
WHAT THAT
MEANT TO
US



OUR HUMANITY
WAS PRECIOUS
TO US.

WE TREASURED
NOTHING MORE
THAN LIFE,
AND LOVE!



A LITTLE LATER, THE COUNCIL PEOPLE ARE
LEAVING TO THE CITY TO LIVE TO FIGHT THE
TERRIBLE WAR...

... OF LOVERS TORN
ASUNDER BY THE SUDDEN
RUSH TO DEFEND THEIR
WORLD.

THE ENEMY DRAWS NIGH
OUR WORLD, RAY-NA!

BUT WHY MUST
YOU BE THE
FIRST TO MEET
THEM, ROM?

BECAUSE OF
WHO I AM, MY
LOVE - AND
WHO I WISH
TO BE!

ROM WAS THE FIRST... BUT
COUNTLESS OTHERS SOON
FOLLOWED HIS STEPS TO THE
HALLS OF SCIENCE.

THERE, GALADOR'S SCIENTIST-
SURGEONS GRAFTED THEIR
CELLULAR STRUCTURES TO
A NEWLY FORGED
CYBORG BATTLE-ARMOR -



-- AND THE SPACEKNIGHTS
SOARED FORTH!!!



FORWARD A POSSIBLE LINE OF DEFENSE IN
SPACE AROUND GALADOR, THE SPACEKNIGHTS
AWAITED THE ENEMY

THEY DIDN'T HAVE
TO WAIT LONG.

THE BATTLE TOOK DAYS
AND THEY WERE NOT ASKED,
HAY AND NOT EVEN

SPACEKNIGHTS FOUGHT,
AND SPACEKNIGHTS DIED,
BUT IN THE END, LED BY
ROM...

...VICTORY DID THEY
CLAIM FOR GALADOR!

THE HORROR DID
NOT END THERE,
THOUGH MY FELLOW
SPACEKNIGHTS AND
I WISHED IT HAD.

THE WRAITHS
WERE ROUTED, BUT
THEY CARRIED THEIR
EVIL WITH THEM--
LIKE AN INTER-
PLANETARY
CANCER--

--FROM WORLD TO
INNOCENT WORLD! ABLE
TO ASSUME ANY
SHAPE--

-- THEY BECAME INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS OF THOSE PLANETS

THE VIDEO STORE

THERE THEY SETTLED, AND DREAMED OF THE DAY--THEIR STRENGTH RESTORED--WHEN THEY WOULD INVADE GALADOR AGAIN.

WHAT IS IT? SOME NEW SPACE SHOW?

I-I THINK IT'S REAL!

HEY! GET THIS!

GALADOR'S PRIME DIRECTOR WAS THE FIRST TO PERCEIVE THE FUTURE PERIL...

CAN WE, IN ALL CONSCIENCE, ALLOW THE WRAITH SCOURGE TO CORRUPT OTHER WORLDS?

YOU ASK US TO CONTINUE THE WAR, REVERED ONE-- TO REMAIN COLD CYBORG KILLERS--

--AND TO CONTINUE TO DENY OUR HUMANITY FOR EONS UNTOLD!

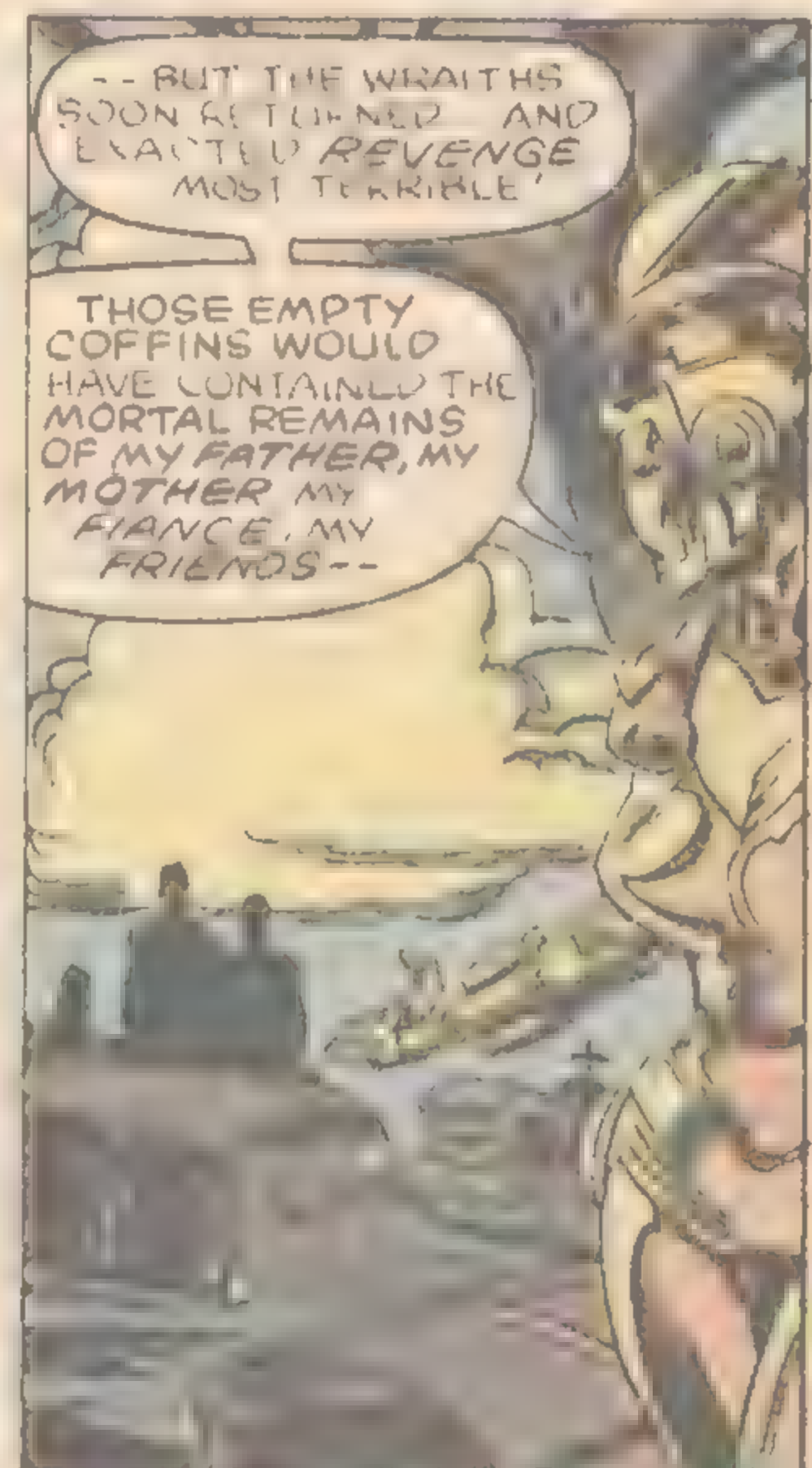
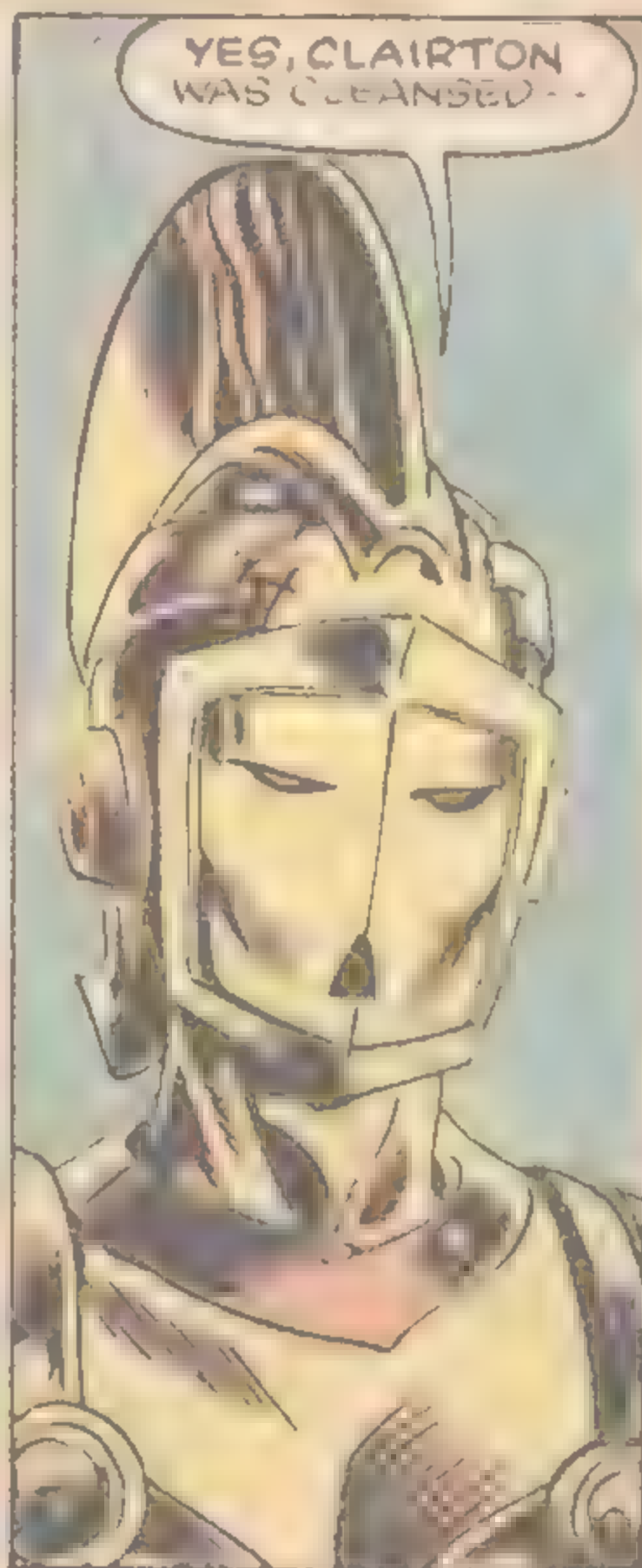
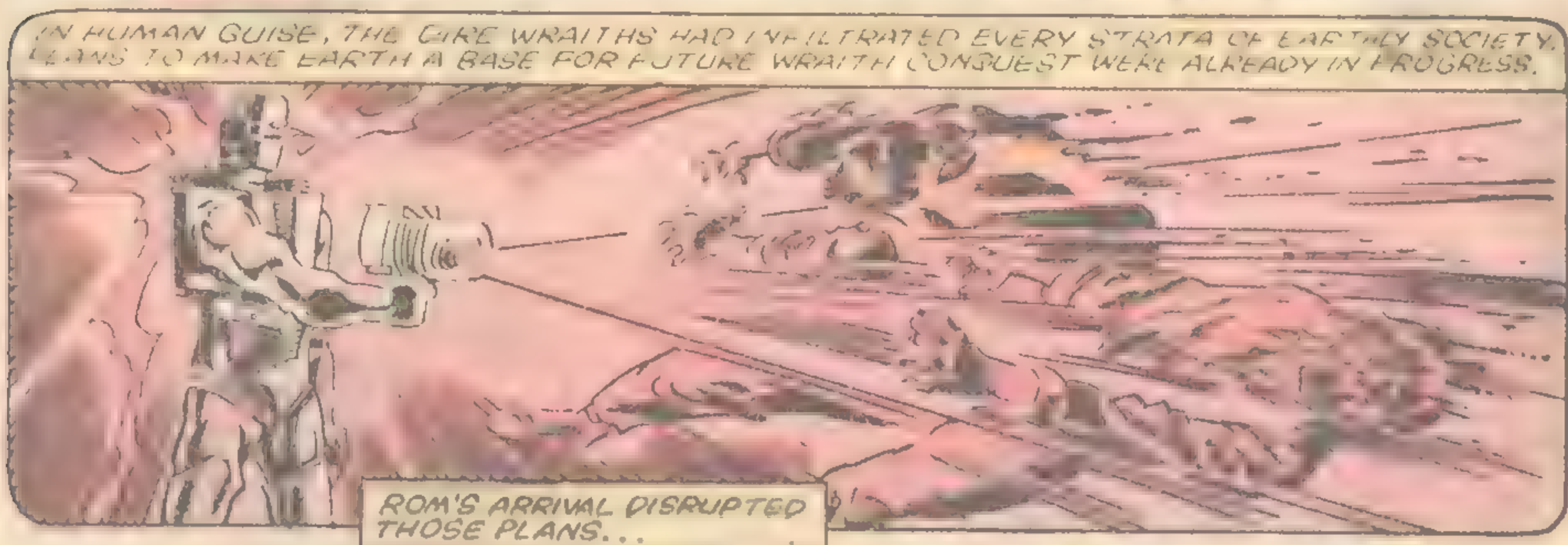
I CAN ONLY GUESS AT THE CONSEQUENCES, ROM. THE CHOICE MUST BE YOURS.

THE CHOICE WAS MADE WHEN, TRUE TO THE PRIME DIRECTOR'S PROPHECY, THE WRAITHS INFILTRATED ANOTHER COLONY OF GALADOR--

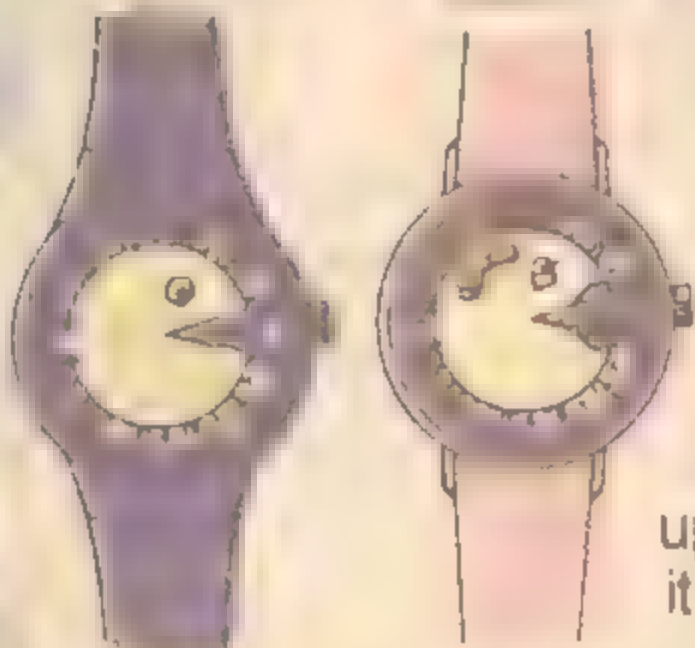
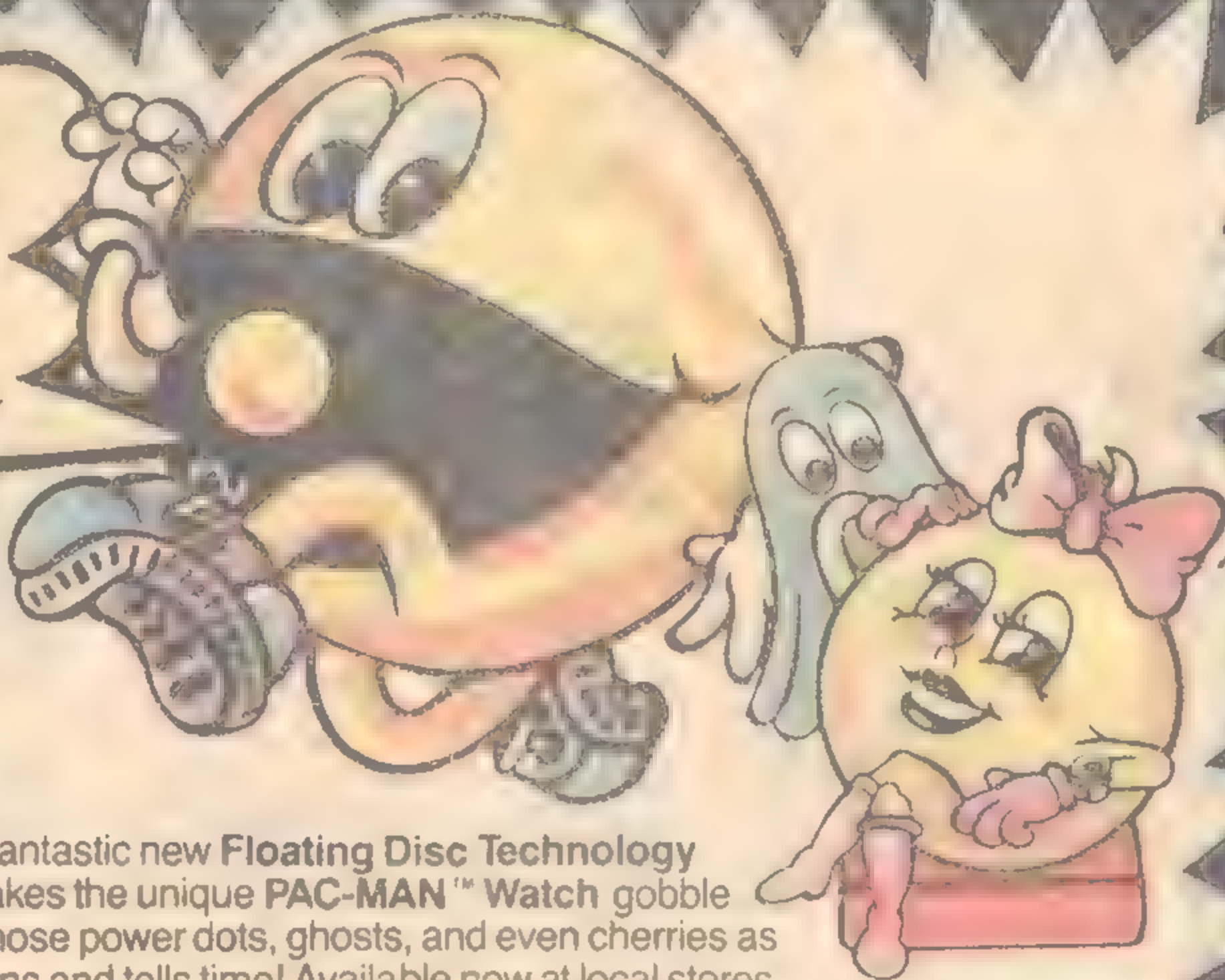
AND STRIKE A BLOW FOR THE GALADOR COLONY

THE S. ROM COMMITTED HIMSELF TO WAGE WAR UNENDING AGAINST WRAITHKIND--

--AND UNDERTOOK TO LEAD THE SPACEKNIGHTS IN THAT HOLY QUEST TO EVERY CORNER OF THE COSMOS.



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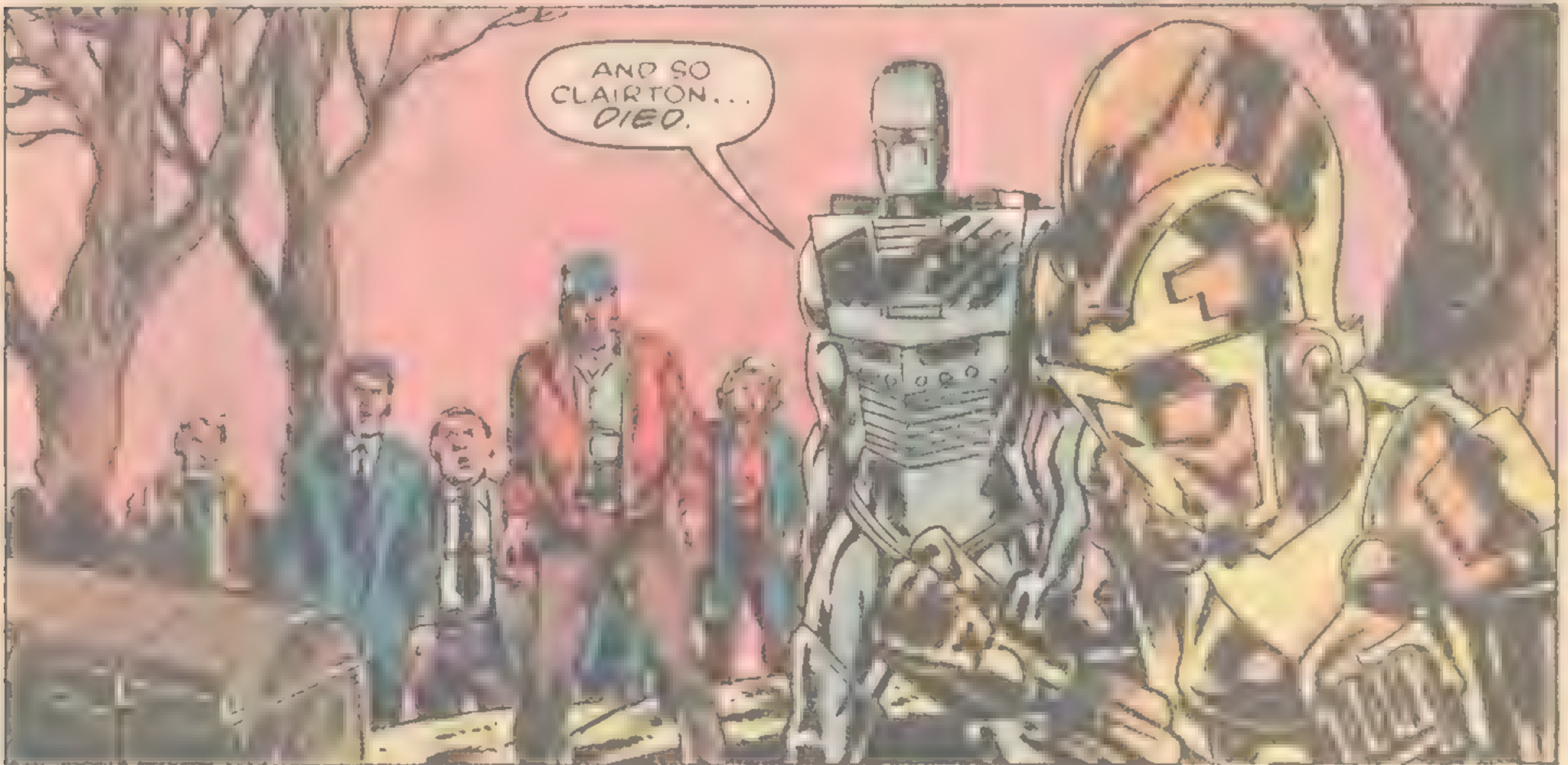


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HADN'T TAKEN
THEM BODY AND
SOUL!"





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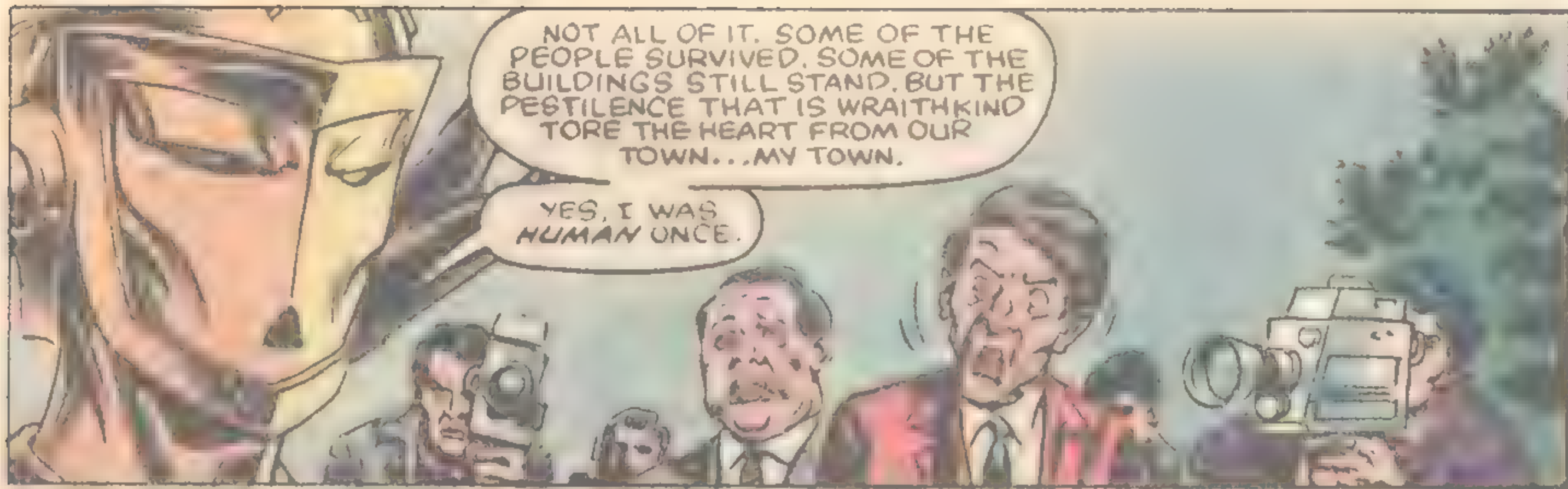
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NOT ALL OF IT. SOME OF THE PEOPLE SURVIVED. SOME OF THE BUILDINGS STILL STAND. BUT THE PESTILENCE THAT IS WRAITHKIND TORE THE HEART FROM OUR TOWN...MY TOWN.

YES, I WAS HUMAN ONCE.



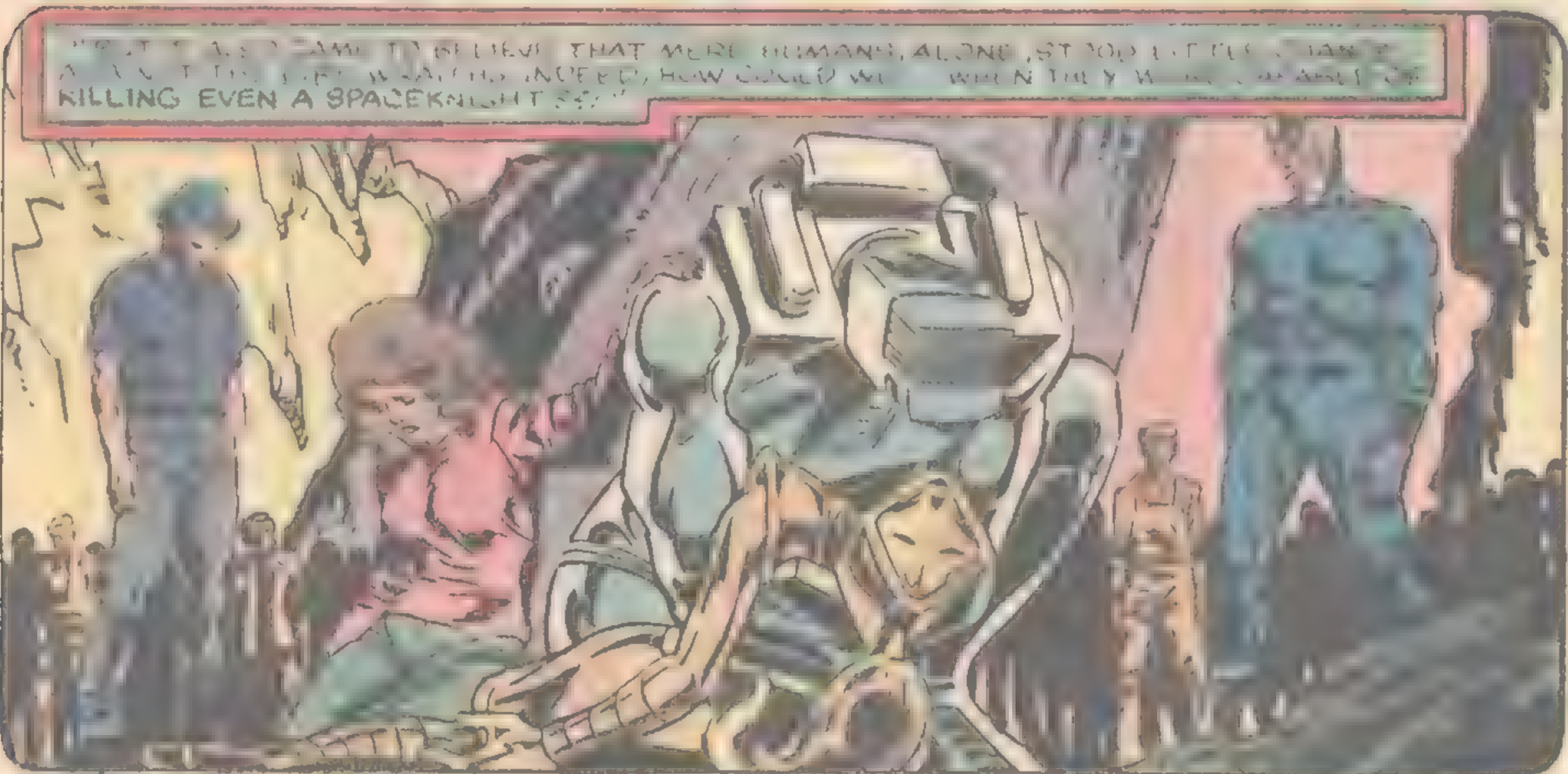
"AS BRANDY CLARK, I WAS THE FIRST HUMAN TO WITNESS ROM'S ARRIVAL ON EARTH.



"BUT I SOON CAME TO BELIEVE IN ROM AND IN HIS MISSION.



"THE HORRORS WRAITHKIND INFLICTED UPON MY TOWN LEFT ME NO CHOICE BUT TO BELIEVE.



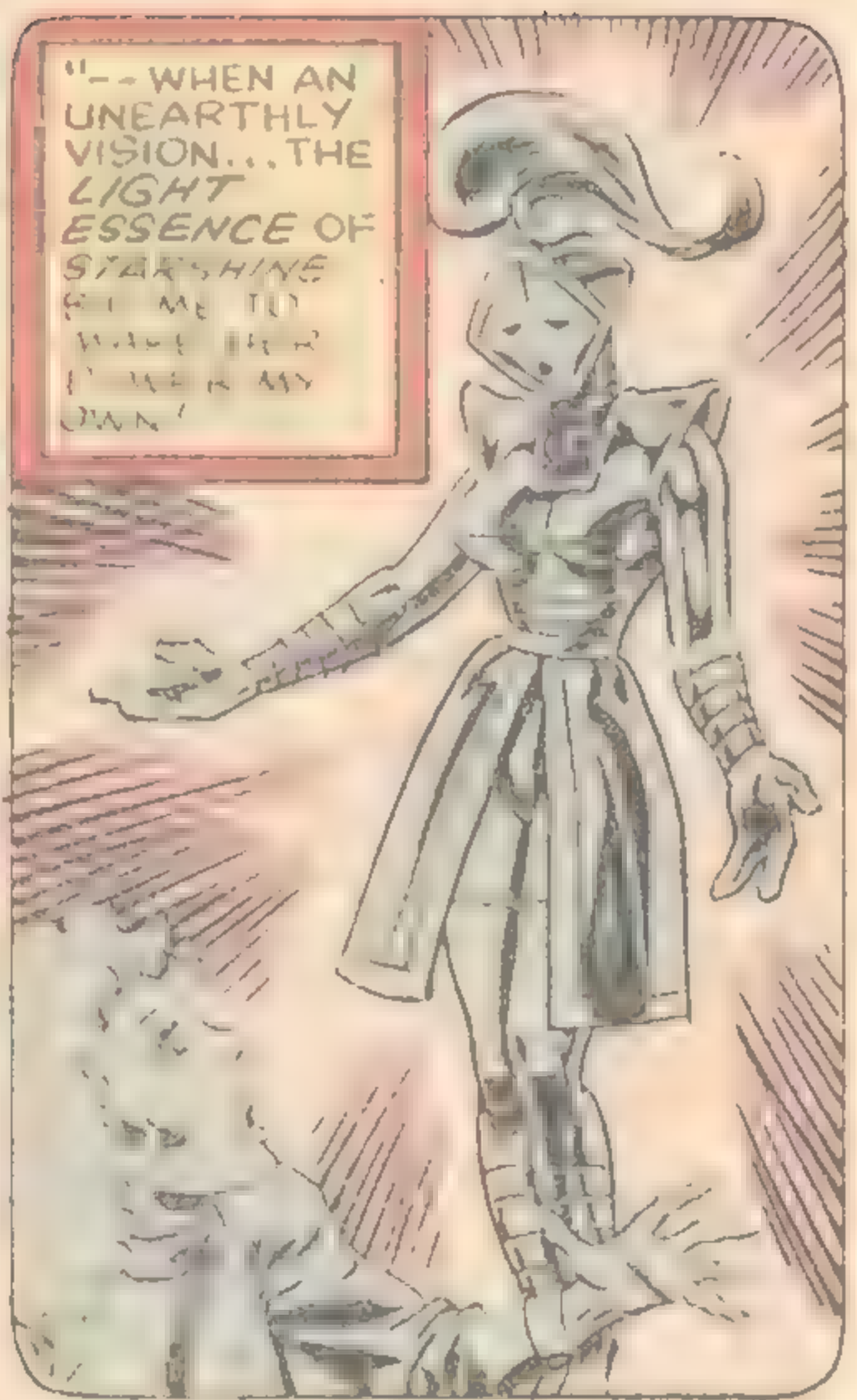
"BUT I CAN'T COME TO BELIEVE THAT MORE HUMANS, ALONE, STOOD UP TO US. I AM A MAN OF THE FUTURE. WRAITHKIND, INDEED, HOW COULD WE WHEN THEY WERE CAPABLE OF KILLING EVEN A SPACEKNIGHT?"



YES, THE ORIGINAL STARSHINE-- A WOMAN BORN ON FAR GALADUR-- DIED IN DEFENSE OF OUR EARTH.



HER ARMOR WAS INTERRED AND EXHUMED IT--



"-- WHEN AN UNEARTHLY VISION... THE LIGHT ESSENCE OF STARSHINE REVEALED TO ME THAT I WOULD BE MY OWN."



"I HAD ALREADY REALIZED THAT, TO BE WITH ROM, I MUST BECOME LIKE HIM."



"BUT MY LOVE FOR ROM ENABLED ME TO THROW OFF DREDD'S ENCHANTMENTS..."

"IN TIME TO SAVE ROM FROM PERISHING AT THE HANDS OF AN EARTHLY FOE."

"A WRAITH WARLOCK, DR. DREDD-- FOR HIS OWN EVIL PURPOSES-- HELPED ME TO ACHIEVE THAT END."



"TOGETHER, THEN, WE RETURNED TO CLAIRTON, WEARY FROM THE WRAITH WAR--"

"-- ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT IT HAD PRECEDED US HOME!"

THE WRAITHS HAD ALREADY TAKEN OUR KEY PEOPLE IN CLAIRTON. MY FAMILY, MY FRIENDS...

"UNSUSPECTING
WE SOARED INTO
THEIR TRAP."

"A SUDDEN SPELL
REMOVED US FROM
THIS EARTHLY
PLANE..."

"... LEAVING
THE PLANET
AT THE MERCY
OF WRAITHING!"

"LUCKILY, IN OUR ABSENCE, THE
WRAITHS THEMSELVES WERE
OCCUPIED BATTLING THEIR HEREDITARY
ENEMIES... THE R-SHAPE-SHIFTING
KINSMEN FROM SPACE- THE SKRULLS!"

"THAT GAVE ROM AND ME
TIME TO FREE OURSELVES
FROM OUR OTHER DIMEN-
SIONAL PRISON..."

"... BUT WE WERE
NOT IN TIME TO
SAVE CLAIRTON."

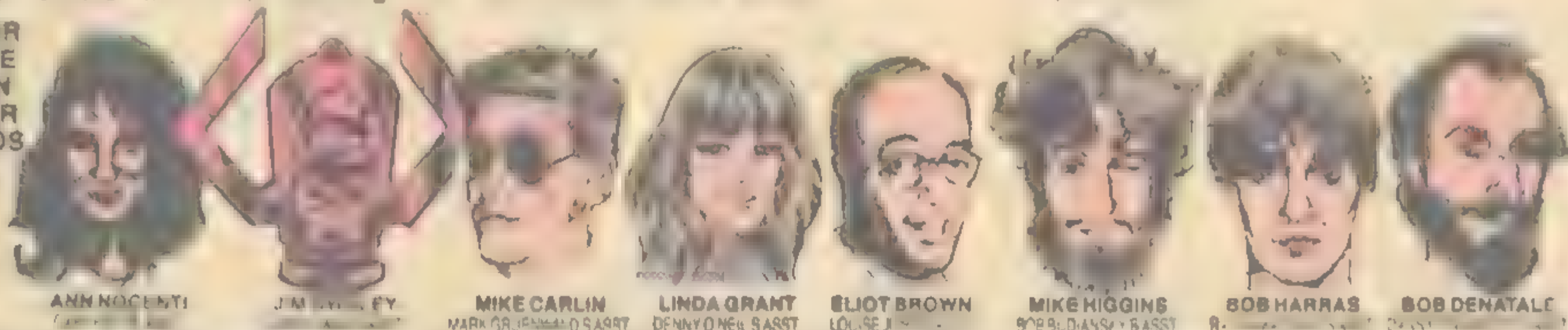
Marvel

Magazine

WE'RE BACK!

We've been away for almost a month, the Marvel editors and me, attending the

THEIR
FATE
IS IN
YOUR
HANDS



ANN NOCENTI

JIM SHOOTER

MIKE CARLIN

LINDA GRANT

ELIOT BROWN

MIKE HIGGINS

BOB HARRAS

BOB DENATALE

SPEAKING OF YOUR LETTERS...

Ever since I publicized *Shooter's First Law of Mail* which decrees that "every letter delivered to Marvel will be opened and read by the person to whom it is addressed," people have been writing even more. That's terrific! I wish we could answer all of your letters, but unfortunately it's impossible. Please try to understand if you don't get an answer. We just don't have time but we love to hear from everyone out there, and we respectfully and carefully consider your comments, compliments and complaints.

One little problem has come up, though. There's going to have to be one exception to my First Law of Mail — me.

I know, I know, how dare I exempt myself from my own rule? Well, I wouldn't if I had any choice. The trouble is that I'm getting many hundreds of letters a day. It has simply become physically impossible for me to open and read each one. It would take me five or six hours a day, presuming I didn't succumb to temptation and scrawl a quick answer to three or four of them in

ChicagoCon, Comix Fair '83 in Houston, the San Diego Comic Con, and more — and taking a few days of working vacation in Los Angeles. At last, we're back. I'm sitting at my Editor in Chief desk in my Editor in Chief office, and the editors are all back in their respective rooms.

You wouldn't believe what went on here while we were gone. Or maybe you saw last month's Marvel Comics...

which case it would take even longer. Until recently, I was spending those hours every day — usually at home, after work. In other words, the time was coming out of my sleep time. That could only go on so long, I'm afraid. Sleeping only three hours a night was wearing me down.

But don't worry, your letters aren't going to be read and screened by some careless minion. I'll still read almost all of them — and the only other person I'll allow to help me with them will be a trusted assistant. I'd tell you who, but I haven't picked him or her yet. We'll do the mail together from now on — and I swear that every letter will be treated with as much care, respect, and attention as ever.

Oh, and by the way, all samples submitted will continue to be examined only by me or somebody on an editorial level qualified to judge them. And, of course we respond to all submissions. When I said before that we can't answer mail, I meant *letters*. Subs always get some kind of response — though, unfortunately for most we can only manage a form letter. Why? Well, we got

I'm not sure what my reaction is. I'm half convinced that congratulations are in order, and half convinced that heads should roll. So it's up to you people out there — should we give the assistant editors, who were solely responsible for last month's, um... rather zany Marvel Comics a raise? Or should we give them their walking papers? Or feed them to the fishes? I'll be waiting for your letters...

over 20,000 submissions last year.

Again, I'm very very sorry. Please understand.

NEXT MONTH...

I'm going to give you a complete report on what the editors and I did on our month-long sweep of the country, complete with photos — like the ones we took when the San Diego motorcycle cops pulled our four convertibles over, and — well... I'll tell you next time.

By the way, Stan Lee and I will be appearing at the fabulous Multimedia ChicagoCon this year! It's at the Hotel Continental in Chicago, Thanksgiving weekend, November 25 through 27. It's going to be a blast, so come on out and see us!

Take care

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

THE HYPE BOX

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THE MARVEL CHECKLIST

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- ROM #32**
- POWER MAN (ONE SHOT) #103**
- GI JOE #21**
- ELESTRA SAGA #2** — Reprinting the story by FRANK MILLER from *Marvel Comics Presents* #1.
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- MARVEL TEAM-UP #139** — Spider-Man and Nick Fury
- IRON MAN #180**

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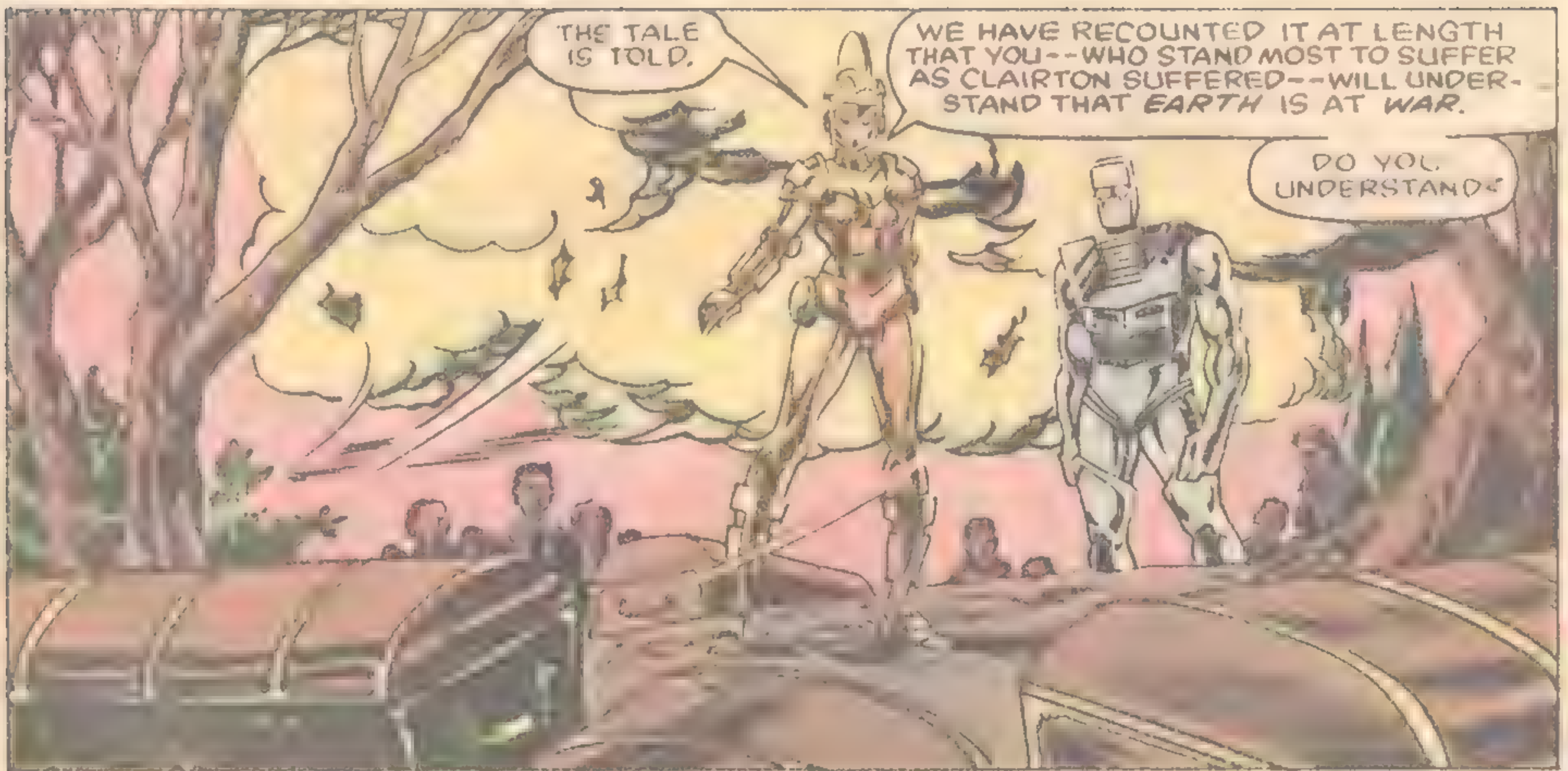
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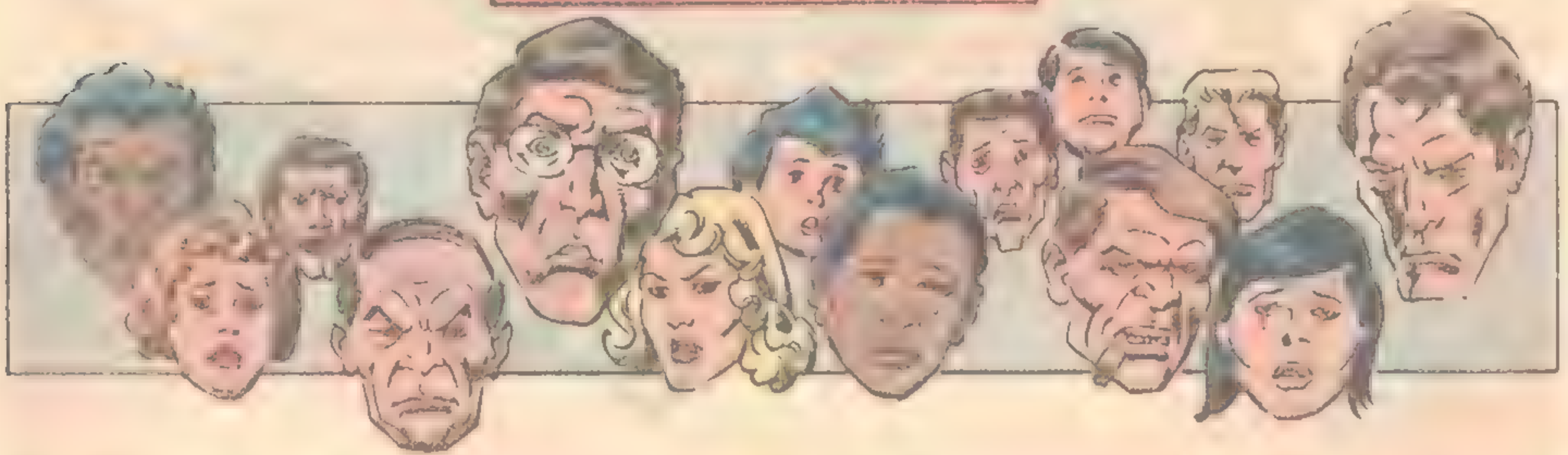


THE TALE
IS TOLD.

WE HAVE RECOUNTED IT AT LENGTH
THAT YOU--WHO STAND MOST TO SUFFER
AS CLAIRTON SUFFERED--WILL UNDER-
STAND THAT EARTH IS AT WAR.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?

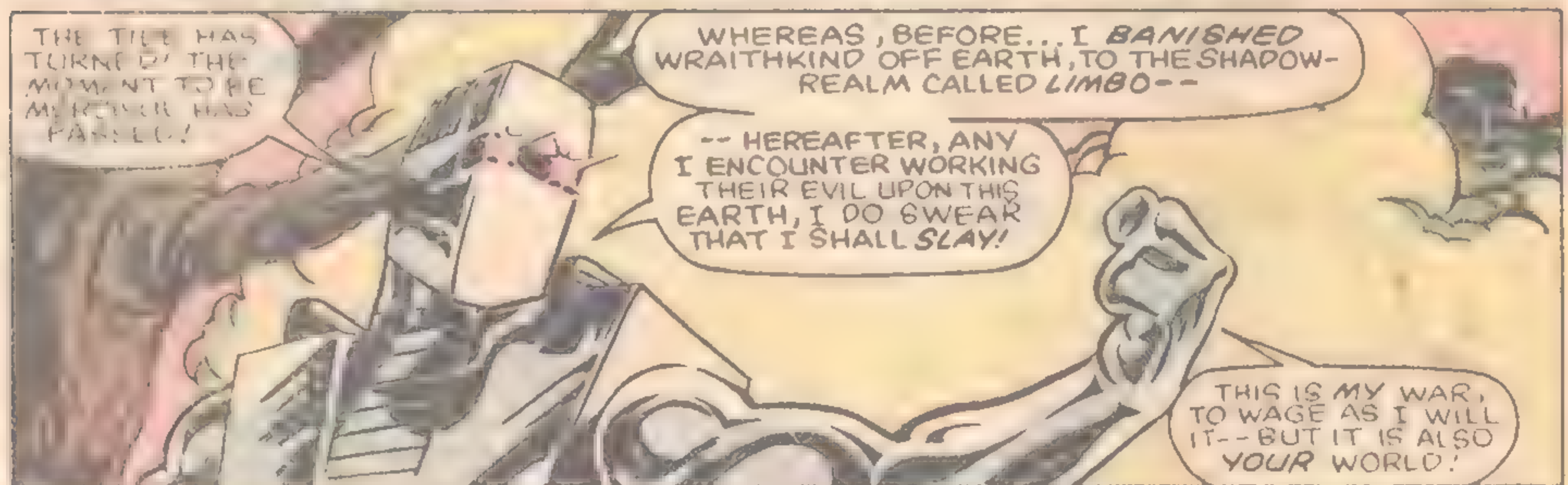
"WILL YOU BELIEVE?"



HERETOFORE I
HAVE ATTEMPTED
TO SEEK OUT
WRAITHKIND IN
SECRECY, FEARFUL
OF ALARMING
HUMANITY AT
LARGE.

THAT TACTIC
HAS FAILED.

TOO MANY INNOCENTS HAVE SUFFERED
TOO MANY WHOM KNOWLEDGE MIGHT HAVE
SAVED... HAVE DIED.



THE TALE HAS
TURNED AT THE
MOMENT TO BE
MORAL HAS
FAILED!

WHEREAS, BEFORE... I BANISHED
WRAITHKIND OFF EARTH, TO THE SHADOW-
REALM CALLED LIMBO--

-- HEREAFTER, ANY
I ENCOUNTER WORKING
THEIR EVIL UPON THIS
EARTH, I DO SWEAR
THAT I SHALL SLAY!

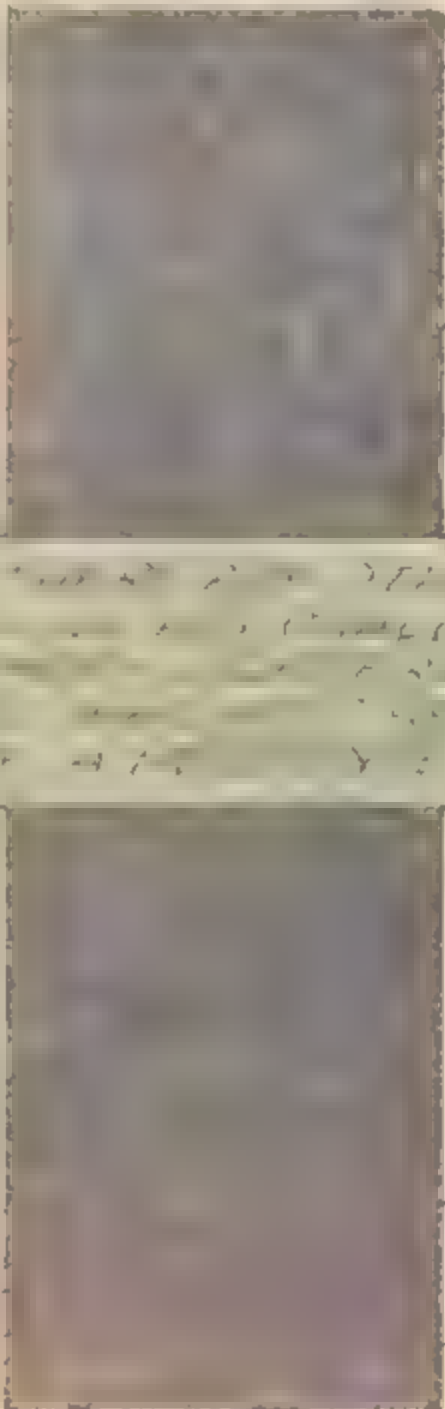
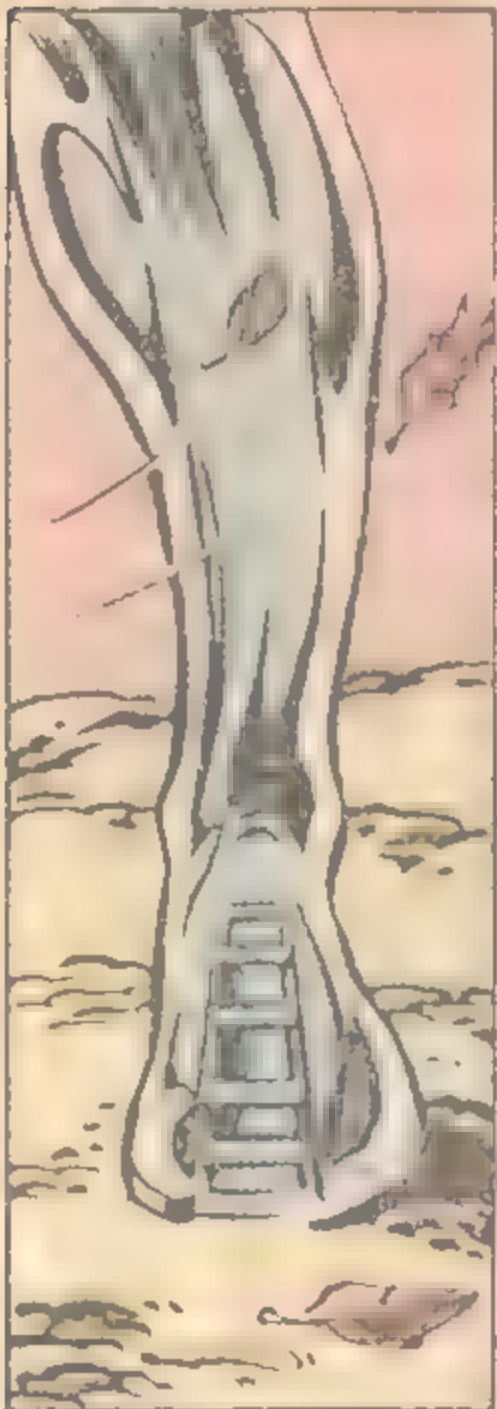
THIS IS MY WAR,
TO WAGE AS I WILL
IT-- BUT IT IS ALSO
YOUR WORLD!



NOW THAT YOU KNOW
THE ENEMY IS AMONG
YOU, WILL YOU YIELD
YOUR WORLD TO THEM--

--OR WILL THE
EARTH RISE UP
AND FIGHT??!

IRON MAN'S DECLARATION OF WAR
ON THE ENEMY OF THE EARTH, AS WELL!



IRON MAN'S
DECLARATION OF
WAR ON THE
ENEMY OF THE
EARTH, AS WELL!

... A RESPONSE THAT WILL
NOT BE LONG IN COMING!

WE HEAR YOUR CHALLENGE,
FROM SPACEKNIGHT-- AND
WE ACCEPT IT! THOUGH YOU
ALERT ALL OF EARTH TO
OUR PRESENCE-- AND ARM
ALL HUMANITY AGAINST US--

--STILL WILL
EARTH BE OURS...

...OR WE SHALL
RENDER IT INCAPABLE
OF SUPPORTING ANY
LIFE AT ALL!!!

NEXT:

TOTAL WAR!!

RALF SPACEWASTER

I've been watching that Bob Harras guy for awhile now. I couldn't prove anything—I just had suspicions. But it all fell together when I saw the results of "Assistant Editors' Month." Bob Harras, able assistant and all-around good guy—was a Dire Wraith! The real Harras had been absorbed, and his place taken by one of those shape-shifting scum. How else could I explain last issue's "Life with Rom and Brandy" feature, which purported to be a humor piece, but, to my trained editorial eye, was actually a sneaky attempt at belittling the great Galadorian, Rom, in the eyes of his public. This ridicule, of course, aids our alien enemy in its planned conquest of Earth. Of this, I'm certain.

But, now I'm back from California, and once again in the Editor's chair. But I won't be turning my back on Mr. Bob Harras—alias Dire Wraith, and I'll get the goods on 'Im. I'll bide my time. I'll be pleasant. I'll be discreet. And then—I'll nail 'Im!

Heh heh! Fooled you guys, didn't I? Had ya goin' for a second, right? Not bad, huh, Bob? Bob? Wh-what's that strange sound you're making—that hissing sound? Hissing sound?!! Uhh gotta run, folks—I just realized I left my Neutralizer in the mens room. GLEEAGGH!
Ralph Macchio

Dear Marvel,

Regarding ROM #46: Good, very good!
David Scott
1321 E. Main
Emmett, ID

Dear Marvel,

The conclusion of our Silver Spaceknight's sojourn in the Soviet Union (ROM #46) was a worthy companion to the last story set in that part of the world (HULK #258-259) which is to say that it was really great; this is hardly surprising since Bill Mantlo also wrote that minor Marvel classic.

The Gremlin's discovery of Wraith infiltration of Soviet society and the way in which the Wraiths exploited the paranoid tendencies of the state to actually destabilize it were chilling enough, but the real kicker was the discovery that the KGB official who briefed the Soviet Super Soldiers on their mission was actually a Wraith!

Bill is a master of characterization, as was demonstrated by his handling of the Gremlin in these past two issues. Last seen as a villain, the Gremlin is now revealed as a force of good. This clearly shows that man and mutant alike are capable of growth and change.

Other good touches were: Rom's anguish after burying his clone; the conflict of 'light' and 'darkness' as embodied by Starshine and Darkstar respectively; Darkstar and Vanguard as seen through the Energy Analyzer (the sight of Darkstar's two selves was truly eerie) and the last page shot of the albino Hellhounds.

By the way, I found Starshine's blood-thirstiness disturbing.

Terry Washington
147 Longley Road
London, SW17, Tooting, 9LD
England

Starshine's vengeful tactics are a cause of concern for Rom, too, Terry, as you've seen this issue and last. There's no telling where the conflict in philosophies between our two Spaceknights will lead.

Dear Ralph,

It's finally happened! The Dire Wraiths have achieved their full potential! I can just guess what the old Wraiths are going to say. In the words of the Thing: "That's better than a poke in the eye, but not by much!" I suspect that the Wraiths we have been seeing all this time will be extremely suspicious of their newly arrived compatriots. I am wondering if these new Wraiths are going to emphasize their superiority over the old ones through force.

It also appears as if one of Reed Richards' fears has come to pass. By feeding on the brains of their victims, these new Wraiths must also absorb all their knowledge and memories. This makes them potentially the most dangerous enemy that Rom has ever faced.

It also appears that the Skrulls are going to pay a visit in the fiftieth issue of our favorite spaceknight's title. This poses some perplexing questions. How did they escape the destruction of their planet by the world-consuming Galactus? Why have they returned to Earth? Is it to seek aid from the Wraiths? What exactly is their relationship to the Wraiths, anyhow? And what part will they play in the eventual Wraith takeover of earth? Hopefully, the answers to these questions will become clear in time.

T.J. Campbell
1225 Bay Ridge Rd.
Madison, WI 53716

Hopefully, T.J., most of your questions were answered in last month's fiftieth anniversary spectacular. By now you know that aid was the last thing the Skrulls were looking for from the Wraiths.

By the way, we have to wonder about your final comment about the Wraith's "eventual" takeover of Earth. Although things do look kinda bleak for our two Spaceknights, you've gotta have faith. Rom and Brandy will need all the help they can in the upcoming months!

Dear Bill, Sal and Ralph,

Re: ROM #47. Scaaaaaarry stuff, boys! Seriously, it was a great issue, and those first six pages WERE scary indeed. Imagine! We finally get to see what a Dire Wraith looks like. BRRRR... I still get goose pimples thinking about those creatures.

There is still something I must say, and it has nothing to do with Dire Wraiths at all. It has to do with the relationship between the new Starshine and Rom. Rom believes it is impossible to love Starshine, but she says, and I quote, "... our being Spaceknights hasn't made us any less human"—and I tend to agree—but then I'm not writing this

saga. Bill, I can't wait to see how you handle THIS one!

Conrad P. Felber
1319 Rose Marie Ave.
Sudbury, Ontario, CANADA P3A 4E4

It's sad to note how much Starshine has changed since that issue, Conrad. All thoughts of humanity and love for Rom have been replaced by an overpowering need for revenge. Remembering what Starshine was like before the death of her family makes her transformation into a cold-blooded warrior all the more tragic.

Dear Bill and Sal,

The new Dire Wraiths are sickening and cruel. Despite that, I hope that they are around for a long, long time. Finally, the Wraiths are doing what aliens trying to conquer the world *would* do: take over the populace not only by infiltration, but also by replacement. I'm just afraid that Rom and company will get rid of them soon, since issue #50 is just around the corner.

By the way, I really enjoyed ROM Annual #2, and I hope to see more of the new Spaceknights.

Scott Bierworth
185 Hillman St.
Cortland, OH 44410

The Spaceknight Squadron may show up someday, Scott. After all, what with the new Dire Wraiths launching their savage attack on Earth in recent issues, Rom may very well need the aid of his old Galadorian allies.

Dear Ralph,

First off, congratulations are in order. Since you took over editing this book, the quality, always on the upswing, has been improving even more rapidly. The changes you have announced (or have already made) are all to the good.

The appearance of the "new" Dire Wraiths in this month's issue (#47) is a vast improvement over the heavyweight beach bums who were in earlier issues of this title. Now they are genuinely horrific creatures. The fact that some Wraiths will be immune to Rom's Neutralizer in the future is a welcome addition, too, as we were getting into the habit of one "veet" and the job was done.

This issue's cover by Bill Sienkiewicz was a true classic, and the nice thing was that the interior artwork was at a comparatively high standard.

Liam Toner
74 Sallynoggin Park
Dunlaoine, Co. Dublin
Ireland

Dear Friends,

I really liked ROM #47.

Dennis Catucci
Westbury, NY 11590

And we really liked your letter, Dennis. Thanks!

NEXT ISSUE: The Dire Wraiths unleashed! And Rom and Brandy discover that they are no longer alone in their battle as they find themselves fighting side by side with the United States Army! But, will even that be enough to stop the new shape-shifters? We strongly suggest that you join us in thirty days when we present the shocking opus entitled: TOTAL WAR!

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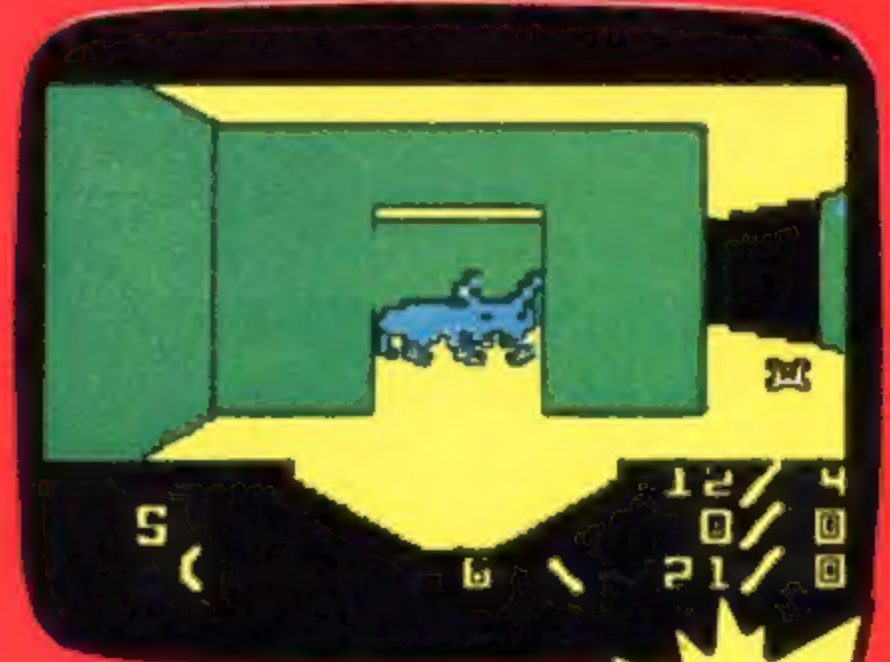
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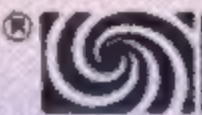
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